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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you agree with the $250 million price tag set by lawmakers in the sale of CUC's power plants?

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8 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Bitter Campaign

The two men who supposedly exemplified a different kind of politics are engaged in an increasingly bitter campaign.

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Nobel Prize

Two French scientists who discovered the AIDS virus and a German who defied convention in showing a viral cause for cervical cancer shared the Nobel Prize in medicine.

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'Make money from CUC with net metering' **PAGE 5**

12 LB staff up to Dec. only

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twelve employees at the Legislative Bureau may be jobless by January because of the bureau's effort to cut personnel costs.

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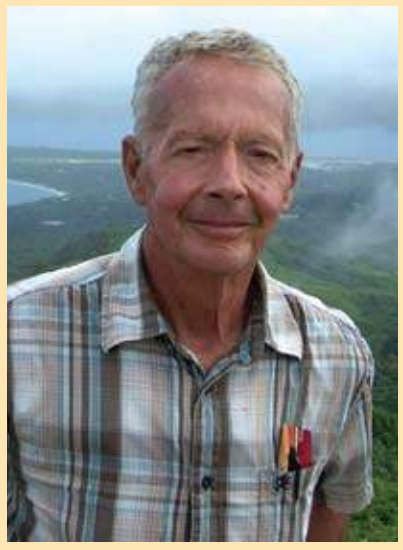
MEDIA FRENZY FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Attorney Bruce Berline walks toward a phalanx of Japanese media as he enters the Department of Corrections in Susupe to visit his client, Kazuyoshi Miura, yesterday afternoon. Los Angeles Police Department detectives were expected to arrive on Saipan last night to pick up Miura at the DOC. He will be brought to California to face charges of conspiracy to commit murder in connection with the fatal shooting of his wife in 1981. ***See story on Page 2***.

THE OLD MAN IN THE SEA



RIK/JANEL VILLEGAS

Jim Bell poses at the top of Mount Tapochau to see the island he swam around. This view shows Lau Lau Bay in the background.

Bell recounts 26-hour swim from Saipan to Tinian

By JAMES BELL
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Saipan-Tinian Channel is full of surprises.

I entered the water at Opyan Beach on the south coast of Saipan at 9:21am on Saturday, Oct. 4, estimating a cross-

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Former chief justice: Repeal Article 12

> *There simply is too much competition going on in the world today....To improve our economy, we must begin using the scarce resources we have; and one of our scarce resources is land.*
>
> —Jose S. Dela Cruz, former chief justice, CNMI Supreme Court

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

In a newly authored paper, a former chief justice of the CNMI's Supreme Court is advocating the repeal of a provision in the Commonwealth's Constitution limiting land ownership only to people of Northern Marianas descent, saying it is unjust

See FORMER on Page 4

Local

Two LAPD detectives back to escort Miura

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura has expressed his readiness to continue his legal fight in California as Los Angeles Police Department detectives were expected to arrive on Saipan last night to pick him up at the Department of Corrections in Susupe.

Accompanied by a Japanese interpreter, Bruce Berline, one of Miura's three lawyers on the island, visited the 61-year-old businessman yesterday afternoon at the Department of Corrections where he has been detained since being arrested at the Saipan airport in February.

Miura

After meeting with his client, Berline told dozens of Japanese media outside DOC that LAPD detectives are indeed on their way to get Miura and escort him to California.

"I spoke to him and he is ready to go. And he is ready to continue his fight in California," the lawyer said.

Berline said they did everything they could do for Miura on Saipan and that now it is time to continue the fight in California.

He said the purpose of his visit was just to give their client advice on what they think is going to happen in California and get him ready for that.

"We just want to make sure he understood that [and] feels comfortable, having the necessary knowledge to handle himself appropriately in California," the lawyer added.

LAPD Cold Case Homicide Unit's Detective Rick Jackson and his partner, Detective Richard Bengtson, were reportedly set to arrive last night at the Saipan airport.

Jackson and Bengtson are tasked to bring Miura to California where he is facing charges of conspiracy to commit murder in connection with the fatal shooting of his wife in 1981. It is not clear yet when they intend to take the businessman.

Jackson and Bengtson, along with two other LAPD officers, came to Saipan last Sept. 15 to pick up Miura but had to leave soon after, empty-handed, after the CNMI Supreme Court granted Miura's request to stay the extradition order.

Last Sept. 29, Miura withdrew the petition for habeas corpus that he filed in federal court.

Muña: CUC respects EPA requirements

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio Muña said yesterday that CUC respects the U.S. Environmental Agency's air emissions regulations but the swift procurement and installation process of the emergency Aggreko generators provided little time to obtain the permits.

The EPA is currently gathering information regarding the emergency generators' air emissions and quality and lack of permits.

Muña said CUC was under a tight timetable to get the Aggreko generators online and provide 24-hour power to Saipan residents. Waiting for the permit process would have added another three to four months to the process. Meanwhile "everybody is screaming" for relief, he said.

He echoed Dean Higuchi, a spokesman for EPA, who earlier said the CNMI's power situation is unique.

"We had to look at the lay of the land," Muña said. People were living without water for days at a time, he added.

"We considered all of that as far as EPA," he said. "Yes, we respect them. We wish we had had more time."

CUC has been working with the Division of Environmental Quality regarding the air quality issues.

Yesterday, DEQ spokeswoman Reina Camacho said the agency has been in contact with CUC. She also said Gov. Benigno Fitial's emergency declaration for CUC does not suspend federal regulations, only local regulations.

"CUC, as a major source generator, is required to submit an application to DEQ prior to commencing activities. However, the governor's declaration of emergency allows for the exemption of local regulations," she said in a statement. "EPA can choose to exercise its authority to require CUC to submit for a permit."

In Fitial's latest declaration, issued Monday, he said CUC must provide copies of relevant agency permits or a compliance plan within 30 days.

Aggreko is not an unknown provider, Muña said. They have provided temporary power to countries around the world, like Japan and China. China is a good example because they probably have similar air quality concerns, especially with the recent Olympics in Beijing, he said.

Also yesterday, Muña said the utility corporation is still on track to pay the $504,000 to Aggreko that is due Friday. The central government and the Public School System should be paying off their several million dollars of debt shortly to achieve the payment. ***(Kristi Eaton)***

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REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Date: September 30, 2008 Contact: Representative Joseph C. Reyes
Telephone: (670) 664-8836
Facsimile: (670) 664-8838

The House Standing Committee on Commerce and Tourism would like to solicit comments from the general public on House Bill 16-140 "To repeal and reenact 5 CMC to provide for a modernization and update of the CNMI Uniform Commercial Code, and for other purposes".

Copies of the legislation may be obtained from the following places:

1. Request to the Office of Representative Joseph C. Reyes
2. It may be viewed at www.camachocnmi.com under Legislative Bills, H.B. 16-140.
3. Request for digital copy via email to rep.jcreyes@gmail.com

Members of the general public are encouraged to submit written testimony on or before October 29, 2008. To submit written testimony, please drop-off or fax to the Office of Representative Joseph C. Reyes (664-8838) or may be mailed to P.O. Box 500586 Saipan, MP 96950. You can also submit your digital copies to rep.jcreyes@gmail.com.

For additional information, you may contact the Office of Representative Joseph C. Reyes.

Rep. Joseph C. Reyes
Chairman

BOE: Classrooms, not gyms

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education supports the proposed $20 million general obligation bond to fund school construction efforts, but wants the power to decide how projects will be prioritized.

A legislative resolution sponsored by Rep. David Apatang proposes to allow public borrowing for the construction of gymnasiums at five high schools, classroom renovations, and other capital improvement projects.

Apatang

In a letter to Rep. David Apatang, sponsor of the proposal, education officials said that while students want gymnasiums, there are urgent school repairs and additional classroom needs that could be funded with the bond money.

According to BOE chair Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, there are $8 million worth of critically needed classroom and related school facility repairs currently waiting to be funded.

In addition, more classrooms are needed at the elementary schools in order for the Public School System to offer full day sessions of kindergarten, consistent with accreditation standards set by the Western Association of School and Colleges for several schools. Currently, PSS is only able to offer half-day sessions of kindergarten. About 200 to 250 children start first grade without having attended kindergarten.

The education officials also said that more school facilities will be required in the next few years, as the military buildup in Guam creates an increased need for vocational skill development and construction of vocational schools.

"It is for all of these reasons that we respectfully request that the Board be provided with the flexibility and the authority to decide the priority of projects from the PSS' seven-year CIP plan that will be undertaken," said Blanco-Maratita and Sablan.

To be adopted, Apatang's resolution must be approved by two-thirds of the members in each house of the Legislature.

The proposed bond will fund the building of new gymnasiums at Saipan Southern High School, Kagman High School, Hopwood Junior High School, Rota High School, and Tinian Jr./Sr. High School, as well other unidentified school-related capital improvement projects.

The resolution limits the range of allowable interest rate to 4 percent to 5.5 percent each year, and the term of repayment to 15 years. The bond will be repaid by the central government.

The construction of new gymnasiums is part of PSS' seven-year capital improvement plan. The CIP plan encompasses PSS' high priority school facility needs from school year 2004-05 to school year 2011-12. It was drafted in anticipation of continued increase in student population.

In 1999, PSS floated a $16-million general obligation bond, also for capital improvement projects at the schools. PSS is expected to make the final payment to bondholders at the end of the current fiscal year.

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Date: Oct. 02, 2008

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Regarding the incident of tainted 3-in-1 instant coffees recently, King Car sincerely apologizes to all the consumers for causing any anxiety, and truly appreciates for those who support King Car for a long time.

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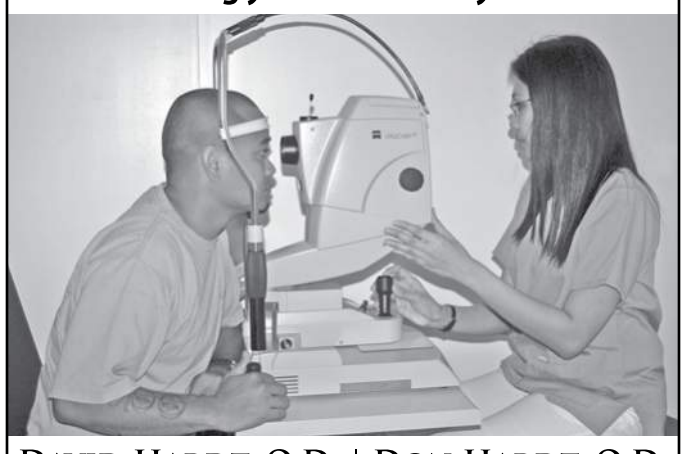

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BELL

From Page 1

ing time of four to five hours. I knew there was a possibility of a reversed current running from west to east, but my experience was that it would eventually change back to a normal east to west current in time to make it to shore on Tinian before nightfall.

My faithful friends, Rik and Janel Villegas, and two of their children, Alicia and Jason, saw me off and a new friend, Nazario Borja from the Tinian Military Liaison Office, would be on the north shore of Tinian scanning the channel with binoculars. Rik would phone him with my departure time and the direction in which the current was carrying me. That would give him an idea of where and when he was apt to sight me. Beyond that, there is not much you can do for a solo channel crossing. An estimated time of arrival and place of arrival are meaningless due to the unpredictable nature of the current.

For the first 45 minutes or so, I was not being deflected by any current so I turned straight for Tinian. At the end of two hours, heavy rain obscured the entire island of Tinian and swell from the west was beginning to predominate over swell from the southeast. At about 3 1/2 hours it was obvious that a reversed current had developed and I turned straight south to cross the current as quickly as possible and then aim for a point farther south on Tinian. Periodically, I would turn toward Tinian and check on the apparent movement of houses, geographical points, etc. on Saipan relative to each other to see if I had gotten across the current or if the current had changed. I finally got a break around 5:00 and started making progress. That would last for about an hour, then relative movement of objects slowly stopped and reversed direction. The reversed current was back.

Reversed current

I turned south to continue trying to get through the current, but the current was fanning out on the east end of the channel and I was not getting any indication that I was approaching the edge. Meantime, because I was not fighting my way into the current, I was being carried farther to the east. Finally, I was looking up the east side of Naftan point, the southeast corner of Saipan from a distance of several miles and had lost all the progress I had made toward Tinian and then some.

As a rather desperate measure, I aimed back toward Tinian and started swimming harder knowing that nightfall was rapidly approaching. Soon I could see the futility of this and went back to a southerly course. I have hundreds of hours of night snorkeling and night SCUBA dives as deep as 120 feet so the ocean at night was not new to me and not to be feared, except this time I would be doing it without a companion and without a light. I knew that jellyfish would be the main threat. They are light sensitive and stay deep in the daytime, but come up to the surface layer at night. The ocean turns black shortly after sunset, but around your hands bioluminescent creatures provide hundreds of points of light as your swimming stroke disturbs them. The creatures do not provide enough light to illuminate the dial of a watch so I did not know what time it was until dawn.

Jellyfish stings

The jellyfish did not disappoint me. They made their presence known shortly after sunset and I would be hit by dozens during the rest of the night. I was accumulating a lot of jellyfish venom in my system, but it was not a type to which I am sensitive so I was just experiencing non-life threatening annoyance.

Periodically, I could see car lights moving along the shore then stopping with their lights pointed out into the channel. I knew that Nazario had friends helping him keep track of possible places to exit the channel on the rugged east coast of Tinian. At about 9:30pm, a Coast Guard helicopter arrived from Guam. It made a trip across the west end of the channel, then made a sweeping arc across the east end. At the end of this arc, they passed directly above me, but that was not good. They had spotlights shining out of the door on each side, but the area directly below the halo was a blind spot. On a later pass they aimed directly at me, but then turned before their lights illuminated me. I could see the near impossibility of locating a swimmer in the ocean at night.

I was beginning to feel some chill. I swam with my head out of the water much of the time to avoid jellyfish stings on my face and, in particular, on my lips. A jellyfish sting on the lips feels like a red hot poker. With my head out of the water I was experiencing the chilling effect of evaporative cooling of my hair so I would occasionally swim with my head in the water.

Challenging night

The rest of the night was spent aiming at the radio antenna lights on Tinian, checking for direction of movement indicated by the lights on Saipan and then, if there was no indication of change in the current, aiming at lights farther south on Tinian. I knew that the current would probably change back to east to west with a predawn low tide. It was still dark when I realized that the current was shifting, apparently hours before the tide change. I was surprised to soon see the first glimmer of dawn. Although it had been a challenging night, it had passed quickly.

With the return of day, I was once again navigating looking at islands and not lights. This time the current was flowing dependably in the right direction. I did not waste time in closing on Tinian. If the normal current began to run at full strength, I ran the risk of being carried past Tinian and into the Philippine Sea. For years, I have had plans for this contingency, but now I just wanted to get to Tinian by the most direct route.

The helicopter returned just before 8:00. I had hoped to be standing on the shore by this time, but still had some distance left to go. They located me on the second pass. I gave them a thumbs up indicating that I was fine and continued toward shore. Shortly, a police boat arrived. They asked if I was Jim Bell for the record and how I was feeling. I confirmed my identity and told them I was feeling great. They said they would keep me in sight, but not interfere with the completion of my swim.

Landfall on Tinian

It turned out my estimate of the distance to shore was a little optimistic. I came ashore near the Blowhole, a point of interest on Tinian. I climbed the rock wall high enough out of the water to consider myself on Tinian and then swam to the boat at 11:22. I had been swimming continuously for 26 hours without food or water, but was not at the point of exhaustion.

I was greeted by the crew of the police boat: Lt. Augustine Dosalua, Heinze Cabrera, Adam J. Safer, Ray Aldan and Anthony Borja. They were very considerate in their treatment of me. My legs were like rubber and they lifted me into a chair. Lt. Dosalua would let me drink water only one gulp at a time with separation between gulps. Rehydrating should be done slowly.

Back at the Tinian harbor, I would have gone straight home, but Terri Clawson, a friend and physician's assistant, had requested that I stop by the Tinian Health Center. All my vital signs were normal. A test of my blood probably would have shown a higher than normal level of jellyfish venom and a psychiatric evaluation probably would have indicated a need for further testing. I was a little unsteady from rolling in southeast swell for 26 hours and a little tired.

Why?

I had a lot of time to think in the channel. Why was I back for another crossing when two crossings would have sufficed? When I was swimming the south coast of Saipan in the last stages of my swim around Saipan, I was swimming along the north side of the channel and began to feel a need to get back into deep water swimming. There is a sense of solitude when you are far from shore alone. Why else do I swim alone? I would not find out what reserves of energy I have if I had a boat to take me home. I would not have to figure my way out of every situation and would not be forced to consider all possible ways of dealing with different conditions if I had an escort.

What did I find out about myself on this crossing? When I swam the channel at the age of 43, at the end of 12 hours, I felt like I could have swum all night. At the age of 70 I got to find out that I do have those reserves of energy and more. What is my limit? I did not find that out. I feel certain I could have gone to 30 hours and probably past that. I found out that practically all of my experiences in the sea can still be accessed even 40 years later. That allowed me to approach a night in the channel without anxiety.

There is one problem with all of these considerations. It was a great experience for me, but not for many other people. There were people who had a long sleepless night and put themselves at various levels of risk on my behalf. There was family and friends who didn't share my knowledge that all was well. The experience I had cannot be duplicated without impacting other people and therefore it may be one of those experiences better reserved for dreams than life. For that reason, it may be time for the Old Man in the Sea to hang up the goggles as far as solo channel swimming is concerned.

I will keep you posted on my upcoming swim off the shoreline of Tinian.

FORMER

From Page 1

and has harmed the local economy.

Jose S. Dela Cruz, who was sworn-in as the CNMI high court's first chief justice in 1989, drafted the paper earlier this year ahead of an effort by a recently formed committee of local business leaders—one including Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan—that he chairs to lobby for a repeal of the Constitution's Article 12, which could come before voters for a renewal when it expires in 2011.

Article 12, he contends, is a discriminatory provision that deters investors from doing business in the CNMI and has divided the community. Its repeal, he says, could stimulate the economy and boost government revenues.

"If the CNMI is to prosper commercially in today's global marketplace, it has to be truly 'business-friendly,'" Dela Cruz writes. "There simply is too much competition going on in the world today….To improve our economy, we must begin using the scarce resources we have; and one of our scarce resources is land."

Proponents of maintaining Article 12 have said that it is vital for the survival of the CNMI's Chamorro and Carolinian cultures by ensuring that land in the Mariana Islands remains in the hands of its indigenous people. However, Dela Cruz points to the thriving traditional Chamorro culture in Guam, where U.S. citizens can purchase land, as evidence that the removal of land ownership restrictions cannot destroy the indigenous way of life in the CNMI. Moreover, he adds, fears that local islanders will see exploitation after selling land to outside investors are equally unfounded.

"[T]he important point to remember is that the people of the CNMI, over the past 25 years, have become well-versed with the importance of land ownership," he writes. "If an individual after 2011 voluntarily chooses to squander his property by selling it and becoming landless as a result, that is his own personal choice."

And the economic consequences of Article 12 are severe, says Dela Cruz. For example, banks hesitate to give mortgage loans because of it and the number of real estate sales during the last decade has fallen dramatically, thereby diminishing land values.

"When other U.S. citizens are accorded the right to buy and own land, the real estate market will definitely get better because the 'pool of buyers' will be much bigger," the former chief justice notes. "And if foreign investors are allowed to buy and own land in the CNMI, the pool of potential buyers would be at its maximum, and real estate prices for the buy-and-sell of land in the CNMI would then be at its most competitive. This would be an ideal situation for landowners who want to sell their property and make money."

Based on these issues, among others, Dela Cruz says a repeal of Article 12 is critical to the CNMI's future.

"[I]n light of our 25-year experience with Article 12, it is neither wise nor beneficial nor fair—as a practical matter, as a matter of public policy and as a matter of law—to continue the land ownership restriction beyond 2011," he writes. "Its continuation would only further hurt the people of the CNMI by creating a divided community based on those who could own land and those who are prohibited from owning land."

Meanwhile, one of the members of the committee, David Sablan, added in an interview Tuesday, that Article 12 should also see a repeal because a growing demographic of Northern Marianas descent people no longer meet its criteria for land ownership, including many young people. As people have moved away from the CNMI or marry outside of the indigenous community, he says, bloodlines—one of the defining characteristics to own land under Article 12—have become diluted.

"There are already people who are not eligible to own the land that has been handed down to them by their parents," said Sablan. "I don't think that's fair for them."

12 LB

From Page 1

Glenna SP Reyes, deputy director at the bureau, in a memorandum on Monday reported that the employees had their contracts renewed for only 90 days due to a lack of money to fund their positions for a full year.

"As every one is fully aware, the bureau is not spared from the budget cut that was implemented for all government entities," Reyes said. "Because of this fact, and the reality of the continued reduction of government resources, a decision was made to execute a one-year contract for critical positions only to ensure that the operation of the bureau is not hindered."

The Legislative Bureau has 30 employees. Among those 12 employees who have been renewed for 90 days only are a fiscal analyst, paid $50,000 a year; a legislative assistant; $48,000, a sergeant-at-arms and a procurement specialist, $36,000; and several clerks with annual salaries ranging from $17,000 to $45,000.

The 90-day contracts are expected to save the Legislative Bureau $276,000 from salaries and $52,500 from benefits.

But Rep. Stanley T. Torres took issue yesterday with the bureau's action. "All personnel contracts already have provisions that address changes in the budget and for terminating a contract with or without cause. My specific question is, why are some staff being singled out [for] these 90-day contracts," he said on the floor of the House of Representatives.

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios pledged to look into the issue.

Reyes in her memorandum also said the 90-day contracts will allow the incoming director the flexibility to reorganize the bureau's personnel "to make certain that the budgeted amount for the bureau sustains its operation while maximizing its limited resources."

The director's position has been vacant since the contract of the former director, Joaquin Omar, expired on Sept. 30, 2008. Omar is now the governor's special assistant for administration for emergency management.

The leaderships at the Senate and House appoint the director of the Legislative Bureau. Earlier this year, the Senate leadership moved to replace Omar with Reyes. But the House, which wanted Ed Tenorio for the job, blocked Reyes's nomination. After weeks of being deadlocked on the issue, the Senate and House agreed to allow Omar to finish his term and then name a new director. They have yet to announce an appointment.

‘Make money from CUC with net metering’

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. could be buying your power, Assistant Attorney General Alan Barak said yesterday.

Barak, speaking to members of the Rotary Club at their weekly meeting, detailed a draft summary of regulations he has been working on for CUC on net metering and renewable energy sources.

A law was passed and amended to allow customers to produce and sell renewable energy to CUC. Renewable energy sources include wind turbines, ocean current turbines, solar energy and hydropower.

“These guys make money,” he said referring to a picture of wind turbines.

Under the draft regulations, customers would produce their own energy to use and the utility corporation will buy each kilowatt-hour of leftover energy for half of CUC’s kWh rate.

Barak said until an alternative to oil is used, CUC power rates would remain the same or increase.

The current CUC rates are driven by oil prices, he said. Even heavy fuel oil won’t provide a long-term solution. A different type of power plant is needed for HFO and it would only save customers about 6 cents.

“It can give you some relief at 6 cents, but it’s only temporarily,” he added.

“You can criticize CUC, you can say people are sleeping on the job,” he said. “You can ask how many CUC employees it takes to read your meter. You can complain that people don’t answer the phone. You can complain whatever you want. If you fired everybody from CUC, you would still pay in the upper 30 [cents] for power. If you’re a business, you would pay about 40 cents.”

Firing everyone from CUC would save customers about 8 cents, he said.

“Fuel’s what’s killing us,” he added.

That’s where renewable power comes in, he said. Business or residential customers can install renewable sources, offsetting the money they would be paying CUC. Any power left over can be bought by CUC for half of CUC’s rate.

For example, Barack said if a customer produces 2,000 kWhs but only uses 1,500 kWhs, he or she could sell the remaining 500 kWh to CUC for half of CUC’s rate.

For CUC’s current commercial rate of 42 cents per kWh, businesses could sell back the extra power for 21 cents per kWh.

“We’re happy to buy power from anyone selling at 20 cents,” he said.

Barak said the energy source could be installed in a backyard, on a roof or even someplace such as Wireless Ridge. The law allows CUC to provide extension cords for a few cents per kWh to transmit the energy to the utility company.

Man gets 10 months for stealing lighting units at memorial park

The federal court yesterday imposed a 10-month prison term on a man who was among three men accused of conspiring to steal portions of the metal lighting units at the American Memorial Park.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson sentenced Dominic Chipwelong to 10 months for conspiracy to sell government property and theft of government property.

After serving the prison term, the 24-year-old Chipwelong will be placed on three years of supervised release.

The defendant was required to immediately pay $35,490 jointly with co-defendant James Ochcha as restitution.

Chipwelong was also ordered to pay a $200 special court assessment fee and perform 100 hours of community service.

During the probationary period, the defendant is prohibited from using controlled drugs and consuming alcoholic beverages.

At the sentencing hearing, assistant U.S. attorney Beverly McCallum recommended a sentence of 10 months in jail. Defense attorney George Hasselback requested the court to impose home detention and partial detention.

Chipwelong, Ochcha, and Masaioshy Daikichi Sallem were indicted with conspiracy to sell government property and theft of government property.

In addition, Ochcha was charged with destruction of a veteran’s memorial.

The three were accused of engaging in a conspiracy to steal portions of the metal lighting units from AMP and selling them to a recycling center in November 2007.

Chipwelong and Ochcha entered a guilty plea. Ochcha’s sentencing was set for Oct. 27, 2008.

Sallem has maintained his innocence of the charges. His trial is scheduled for Oct. 20, 2008. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Funding bills for Tinian OK’d

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has signed into law two bills appropriating funds for projects on Tinian.

Fitial approved the appropriation of $16,000 of poker license fees for the students affected by the closure of the Northern Marianas College campus on Tinian and the purchase of computer equipment for the Department of Labor on Tinian.

Of the amount, $9,000 will pay for the housing and transportation expenses of NMC students who had to transfer to the Saipan campus after the college closed its doors on Tinian. The remainder will be used to buy the computers for the Labor Department.

The governor also endorsed the use of $11,000 from developer infrastructure taxes to complete the installation of roll up doors and exhaust vents at the Tinian fire station.

Both local bills were sponsored by Rep. Edwin Aldan and passed by the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

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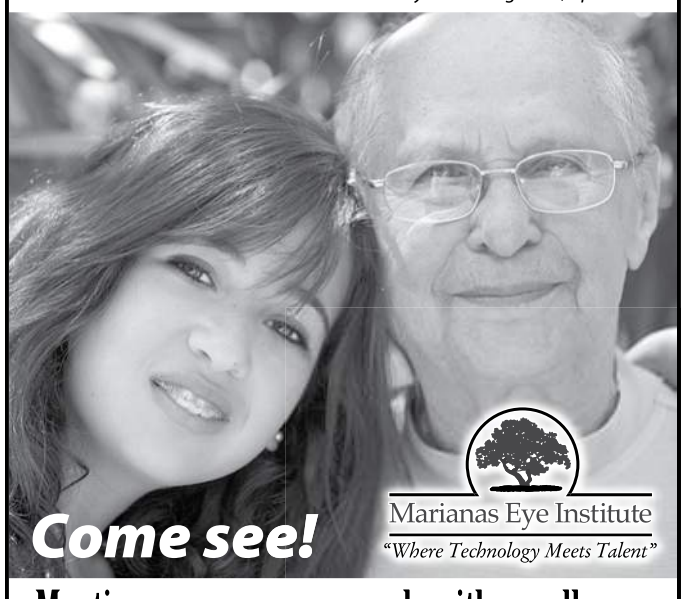

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Sex offenders required to update registration

All convicted sex offenders in the CNMI are being required to update their registration files before Oct. 24, 2008, as part of a regularly scheduled monitoring and compliance check on all offenders.

In a notice issued yesterday, the Sex Offender Registry Unit of the Department of Public Safety said all convicted sex offenders must visit the SOR office, located at the DPS Central Office in Susupe, between now and by 4:30pm of Oct. 24, 2008.

The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 provides for the use of federal law enforcement resources—including the U.S. Marshals Service—to assist a state in locating and apprehending non-compliant sex offenders. This act also makes it a federal offense, punishable up to 10 years in prison based upon interstate commerce for sex offenders who have not registered at the jurisdiction they reside and have moved to another state/territory.

Any person convicted of a sexual crime is required under Public Law 11-104 to register as a sex offender at the Department of Public Safety. Public Law 11-104 mandates DPS, Adult Probation and the Office of Parole to register, update, photograph, fingerprint and keep on file all information about these offenders and to share, coordinate and update other affected law enforcement agencies.

The Sex Offender Registry Unit scheduled this month its third quarter monitoring operations and compliance checks on offenders.

"Due to the size of the community in the CNMI, offenders easily change addresses, contact numbers, vehicles and employment status; therefore, the unit deems it necessary to conduct these operations in order to keep offenders compliant with their registry information," DPS said in the statement.

All offenders who are in violation of Public Law 11-104 are advised to update their registration documents as to avoid a year of imprisonment and up to $1,000.00 in fines.

For further information, contact Officer Tricia Seman at 664-9026. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Eight bets to participate in NMC delegate forum

Voters and community members who are interested in learning more about the candidates vying to represent the CNMI in Washington DC are invited to attend the U.S. Delegate Forum, which is being organized through collaborative efforts of the Office of Youth Affairs, The Associated Students of the Northern Marianas College, and the CNMI Youth Congress.

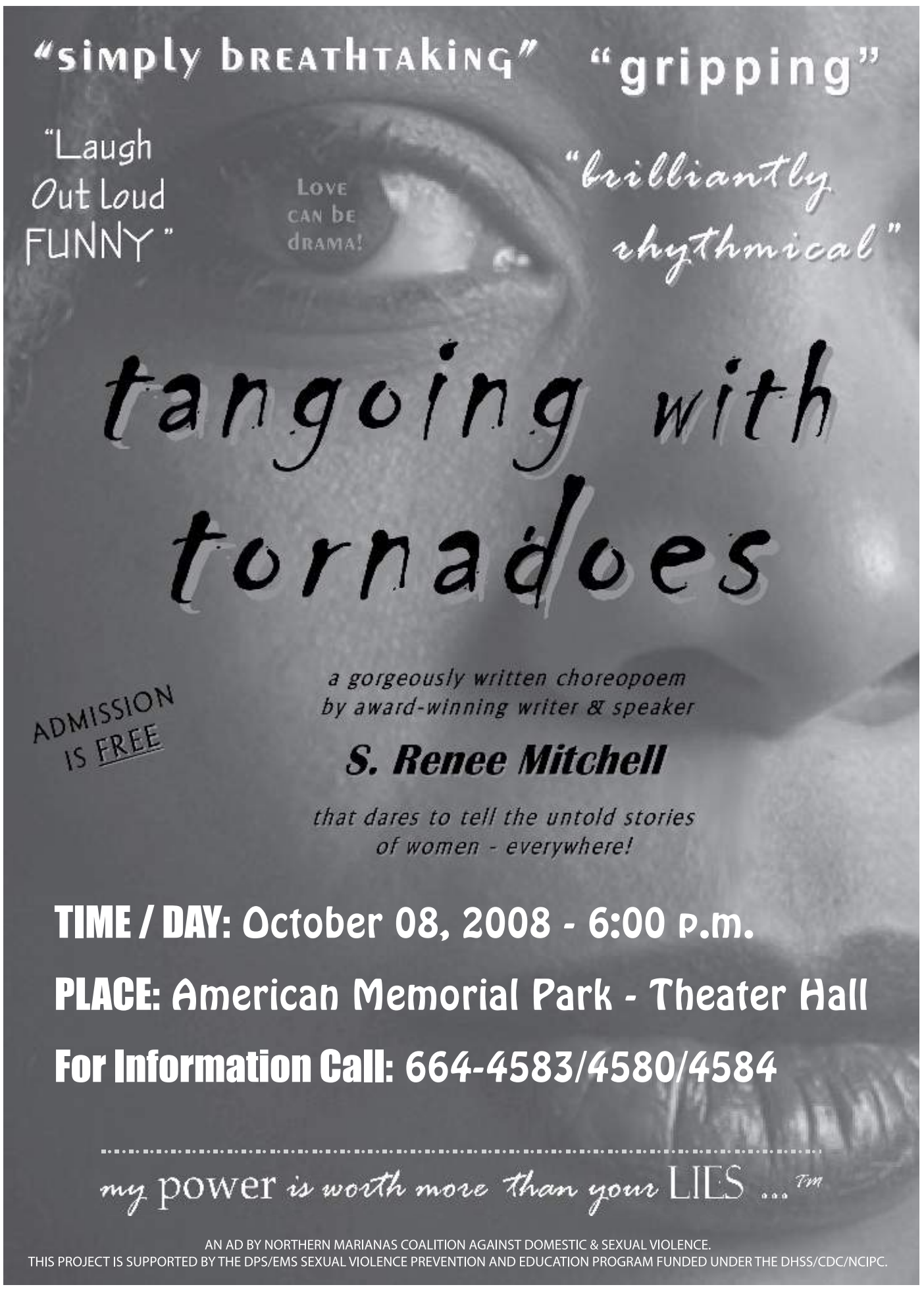
The Forum will be held on Oct. 8, 2008 at 6:30pm at the Multi-Purpose Center. Doors will open at 5pm. There is no fee for admission.

For the first time, the forum will also be televised live to Rota and Tinian. This live broadcast is supported by federal funds through the Administration for Native Americans through NMC's partnership with PTI. Rota and Tinian residents who wish to watch the forum live must arrive at the NMC Instructional Sites in Rota or Tinian before 6pm.

Candidates who have confirmed their participation include Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council member Felipe Atalig, Ind.; former high school teacher John Davis, Ind.; talk show host John DLR. Gonzales, Ind.; former Judge Juan T. Lizama, Ind.; former Election Commission executive director Gregorio C. Sablan, Ind.; Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, Republican; businessman Chong Won, Ind., and former senator David Cing. Sen. Luis Crisostimo will not be participating.

The format of the forum will follow a question-and-answer arrangement, whereby a moderator will ask a question and each participating candidate will have a turn at answering the question asked. The questions will not be provided to the candidates before the forum.

The questions asked will cover a host of issues that are timely, relevant, and important to the people—and more particularly the youth—of the CNMI. These include the state of the CNMI's educational system, economic conditions, the power predicament, and other issues. ***(NMC)***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Six workers file suit vs defunct garment firm

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Six alien workers filed a discrimination lawsuit in federal court yesterday against defunct garment manufacturer Sam Kwang Saipan Corp. and its officers.

Marissa V. Acunin, Virginia Q. Alipio, Remedios Amor, Nenita A. Espinosa, Erlinda M. Reginio, also known as Erlinda Carandang; and Norma D. Quejano sued Sam Kwang and its then general manager Jong Suk Park, production manager Cheng Zi We, and supervisor Xin Yu Xian.

The six, through lawyer Stephen C. Woodruff, sued the defendants for unlawful discharge/national origin discrimination, differential treatment on overtime work assignments, violation of American with Disabilities Act, retaliatory discharge, breach of contract, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and violation of the Age Discrimination Act.

The complainants asked the U.S. District Court to order the defendants to award them lost earnings and lost employment benefits, and punitive damages. They also demanded payment for attorney's fees and court costs.

Sam Kwang Saipan Corp. shut down its factory in Afetnas in January 2008, citing the rising cost of labor, increased competition in China and other Asian countries, and the increased costs of doing business in the CNMI.

Woodruff stated in the complaint that in October and December 2006, plaintiffs filed charges of discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission against Sam Kwang. In May 2008 EEOC issued each plaintiffs a notice of right to sue.

Woodruff said the six workers were separately terminated in December 2006, February 2007, and December 2007.

In their place, Sam Kwang hired Chinese workers under the same contracts as those of the six complainants, Woodruff said.

During their employment, Woodruff said, the six—and Filipino workers as a class—were regularly and almost routinely humiliated and insulted by their Chinese production manager, We.

Woodruff said We, without any basis, questioned the plaintiffs' performance and made racial slurs like, "Filipinos no good, very slow."

"Chinese workers were not subjected to similar humiliating and unfounded comments by We and were in fact unfairly favored by defendants over the Filipino workers, for instance with respect to overtime work," Woodruff said.

In November 2006 and January 2007, the lawyer said, Park informed plaintiffs that their employment contracts would not be renewed upon their expiration dates.

"Around the time plaintiffs were informed of their non-renewal, defendants were continuously hiring new Chinese workers and renewing Chinese workers who were already employed," he said.

Woodruff noted that defendants even hired more new Chinese workers.

He said the six repeatedly complained to Park, We and, Xian and to their local manager about the disparate treatment, but their complaints were ignored.

Woodruff said that, on different occasions in July and August 2006, We, without any valid reasons, would insult the workers with racial slurs such as, "Filipino lady no good, very slow" or "You are very old, very slow and wearing eyeglasses because eyes no good."

NMC student chosen to take part in RP conference

Northern Marianas College freshman Bruce Jarrett M. Iglesias is this year's winner of the college's annual Student Economic Essay Competition sponsored by the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies and coordinated by the NMC Business Department.

This is the third consecutive year that the APAFS has sponsored the regional competition, which includes students from Northern Marianas College, Guam Community College, the University of Guam, the College of the Marshall Islands, Palau Community College, the College of Micronesia, and the University of the South Pacific.

The winners from each community college and university are provided with a fully funded trip to Manila, Philippines, to present a summary of their paper at the 8th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference on October 9 – 10, 2008, at the Renaissance Makati City Hotel.

Iglesias's first-place essay expressed his insights on the impact that the proposed Marianas Trench Marine National Monument designation would have on the CNMI economy. His essay argued that the benefits of the proposed marine monument far outweigh any perceived drawbacks.

In his essay, Iglesias points out that the marine monument's most significant benefits would include positive international exposure for the CNMI; substantial increases in visitor arrivals; annual grant funds from the federal government and other non-government sources for research, development, management, and operation of the Marine Monument; and educational and research opportunities that will benefit CNMI students, Northern Marianas College and other educational institutions in the region.

"I was honored and at the same time surprised to be named the winner of this competition," said Iglesias. "I learned so much from my research on the essay and I really appreciate the support, time and information provided to me by many people."

"I would like to thank my parents, Antonia "Toni" Iglesias and Ernie Balbin, my wife, Janel Pangelinan, and my sister, Velma Mafnas, for their confidence in me and constant support," added Iglesias. "I would also like to express my gratitude to my instructor, Mr. Eric Plinske, and the other Business Department faculty who encouraged me to compete."

However, because Iglesias's passport is expired and because its renewal was unable to occur in a timely manner, the second place winner of the essay competition will travel in Iglesias's stead.

The second place winner, NMC student Regina E. Andres, emphasized in her essay the importance of the CNMI's first congressional delegate and the influence this elected official will have on decisions that can positively impact the CNMI's economy.

"I'm sad that Bruce won't be able to travel to Manila, but I'm grateful to NMC and the APAFS for sponsoring this annual competition and excited about the opportunity to represent Bruce and NMC at the conference," said Andres.

Other competition finalists included students Xu "Ava" Dan and John Peter Sablan. Dr. Carmen Fernandez, NMC president, appointed Business instructor Rik Villegas to serve as the NMC chaperone on the trip to the investment conference. Travel and conference costs for the student winner and NMC chaperone will be paid by the APAFS.

"The NMC community is proud of all our essay competitors and grateful to APAFS for once again sponsoring this valuable competition throughout the region," said President Fernandez. "Special congratulations goes out to both Bruce and Regina on their hard work and thought-provoking essays."

APAFS was formed by a forward thinking group of fiduciaries from throughout the diverse geographical area of the Asia Pacific region. It is a nonprofit educational association with the aim of providing educational forums for fiduciaries in the region so that they can better exercise prudent stewardship of the funds entrusted to their care.

The two-day Pacific Region Investment Conference offers attendees an opportunity to participate in a variety of presentations, network, and question top speakers from the finance and investment industry. ***(NMC)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Student economic essay competition winners Bruce Iglesias, seated left, and Regina Andres, seated right, pose for a photo with, from left, Business Department chair Eric Plinske, NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez; dean of Academic Programs and Services Dr. Debra Cabrera, and NMC Business instructor Rik Villegas.

BoG gives $10K to Red Cross

Bank of Guam has donated $10,000 and is a premier corporate sponsor for this year's annual American Red Cross Club 200 fundraising dinner and raffle.

"Bank of Guam continues to be a leader in our community by supporting many non-profit organizations including the Red Cross," said John Hirsh, executive director of the NMI Chapter. "Bank of Guam has a strong legacy of helping those in need, particularly the work that the Red Cross does here in the NMI and throughout the region."

Bank of Guam is a leading financial services provider in the Western Pacific, with branches in Guam, the CNMI, Micronesia, the Western United States and the Asia-Pacific rim. ***(PR)***

Island Snapshots

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
One of the booths displays emergency equipment and gear at the conclusion of last Saturday's Disaster Preparedness Month, organized by the Emergency Management Office at the Garapan market.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

HONORARY FIREFIGHTER
Make-A-Wish Foundation's honorary firefighter Patrick Somorang reads a proclamation for CNMI Fire Prevention Week as Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago Tudela listens and Gov. Benigno Fitial examines a piece of paper in the governor's conference room Monday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

SPIRIT WEEK
Young students of Grace Christian Academy cheer as they celebrate the school's Spirit Week.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

PUBLIC HEARING
At a public hearing on Tinian last week, members of the public voiced support for proposed Matua Bay Resort project and urged the Coastal Resources Management Office to approve a permit for it.

COURTESY OF MRDC

USS RENTZ
The USS Rentz (FFG 46), a 453-foot guided missile frigate of the United States Navy with approximately 215 officers and crew, is seen docked at the Port of Saipan upon its arrival last month. This was the ship's first rest-and-recreation visit to Saipan. The Rentz is homeported in San Diego, California.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 08, 1999

NMI, OIA okay deal
After weeks of disagreement, CNMI and the federal government have finally struck a deal on the reimbursement of expenditures incurred from detaining and repatriating more than 600 illegal Chinese immigrants during the Tinian operations. The U.S. Department of the Interior is paying about $754,000 in initial settlement of charges and billings from April to June, which the island government expects to receive anytime soon, according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

Teno keeps hands off Saipan power project
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio won't step in to hasten resolution of the dispute surrounding the long-stalled Saipan power project as he expressed confidence yesterday that the board of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would come up with a decision by next week. But he said any alteration to the initial plan to build an 80-megawatt plant should consider the power demand and actual consumption on the island to ensure that there will be no outages in the future.

CUC mum on talks about downsizing 80MW plant
Utility officials were mum yesterday on speculation the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has proposed downsizing the original plan on the 80-megawatt Saipan power plant amid delay on a final decision to award the $120 million project to a potential contractor. CUC legal counsel Bill Ohle said the board will respond to statements made by Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes urging the government-owned utility company to speed up procurement of the plant as well as to claims of a change in the plan.

October 08, 2001

Panel eyed to help improve business climate in CNMI
With so many task forces, special committees and other related councils, the Senate has moved for the creation of one specific body—a Central Economic Recovery Commission—which would have jurisdiction over all these economic-related bodies. Senate Bill 12-127, which was introduced by Sen. Edward U. Maratita, now goes to the House of Representatives after the Senate passed the measure during their last session on Tinian.

Teno holds off decision on lobby firm's contract
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has temporarily suspended making any decision on the expired Greenberg Traurig contract, in deference to the oversight hearing that the Senate plans to conduct on the lobby group's contract. Press Secretary Frank Rosario said that Tenorio has temporarily put on hold any decision on the lobby group's contract-whether to renew it or not-until such time that the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs comes out with the result of its investigation of the matter.

Classrooms look good, but where are the chairs?
The three newest schools on Saipan are nearing completion and will soon be ready for occupancy. However, there is one problem—-they have no collateral equipment. Rep. Antonio M. Camacho disclosed that the Kagman Junior High, the Kagman High School and the Koblerville High School will soon be completed but no funding has been set aside for the purchase of collateral equipment, such as desks, blackboards, tables, chairs, among others.

October 08, 2002

NMI braces for lockout impact
Prices of agricultural products may shoot up in weeks to come as major suppliers consider air freighting produce to the CNMI if the port lockout in the West Coast continues. This as Saipan residents trooped to various supermarkets on island over the weekend to purchase rice, vegetables, meats, and fruits in bulk for fear of food shortage.

DLNR adopts emergency quarantine regs
With the rapid spread of the West Nile virus in the U.S. mainland, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources yesterday said it adopted an emergency regulation on quarantine that imposes an embargo on birds and poultry coming from the mainland. Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Tom Pangelinan said he has ordered all quarantine inspectors to enforce the regulation starting last week.

Fitial says federalization lawsuit is for the people

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lawmakers should support the administration's lawsuit against the federalization law as it is for the benefit of the people of the CNMI, according to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday.

Fitial told reporters that he believes that lawmakers owe it to the people to support the lawsuit and defend the rights of local people.

"People [have] to understand that the lawsuit is basically asking the court to clarify the issue with respect to labor," he said.

The governor said his administration understands that the Covenant authorizes the federal government to extend the federal immigration law to the CNMI. But the Covenant, he said, does not authorize the federal government to regulate internal labor.

Fitial said if Rep. Diego Benavente is running for governor, then that's enough reason for the lawmaker to support the lawsuit.

"It will be the local people who will be voting for the governor, not the federal government," he pointed out.

Fitial said he would ask people to remind lawmakers that they voted for them.

"They [people] elected them [lawmakers] to serve the people's interest, not their own," he said.

Fitial said if the lawsuit can't be funded using public money, he would borrow the money and pay for it himself.

When a reporter asked from whom he will borrow money from, the smiling governor quickly replied, "From you."

"I owe it to my people. They elected me and they expect me to perform," he added.

Benavente earlier voiced out that CNMI should engage in a dialogue with the federal government instead of pursuing an expensive but uncertain lawsuit against the federalization law.

"We don't have the money to spend on this," said Benavente, referring to the lawsuit that, according to Fitial's special legal counsel, Howard Willens, would cost $50,000 monthly or about $400,000 covering an eight-month period.

"We knock on their doors and come in and present our views," said Benavente, who is chairman of the House's Committee on U.S. and Foreign Relations.

Willens earlier pointed to Section 105 of the Covenant that forbids the U.S. from abrogating the Commonwealth's right to local self-government without its consent.

"One of the necessary incidents of the right of local self-government is the right to regulate internal labor and economic affairs and to secure the economic prosperity of local residents," Willens said.

TAXI GROUP STEFAN SEBASTIAN
Members of the Saipan City Taxi Association on Monday announced a plan to reduce fares for DFS-bound patrons.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Chacha Open House tomorrow
The Chacha Ocean View Jr. High School will be having an Open House night on Thursday, Oct. 9, from 4pm to 6pm to distribute 1st quarter student mid-progress reports. Should you have any question and /or comments, call 237-3921 or 664-4100. This day will be a full day for students. ***(PR)***

Hopwood PTSA meeting tomorrow
Hopwood Junior High School is informing all parents and legal guardians of its students about the 2nd PTSA meeting to be held on Thursday, Oct. 9, from 6pm to 7pm, in the school cafeteria. Agenda will cover the election of new officers, meeting teachers, plus others. Please come and show your participation. (PR)

Men's Walk and Candlelight Vigil set
In an effort to end violence in the community, the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Committee, the Family Violence Task Force and its community partners are cordially inviting all men and thier family members to join the "Halloween Men's Walk" and "Candlelight Vigil." The event will be held Oct. 31, Friday, 5:30pm, starting at the Garapan Fishing Base. Participants are urged to be at the site by 5pm. There will be free t-shirts to the first 100 marchers.
For more information, contact the Ayuda Network (322-7469); or Lugat Pas (662-4583). (PR)

KagES PTA meeting reset to tomorrow
Parents and teachers of Kagman Elementary School students are being informed that the school will be having a PTA meeting tomorrow, Oct. 9, 2008, instead of today, Oct. 8, 2008. "Sorry for the inconvenience but please come and attend this meeting because important matters will be discussed," the school said in a statement. ***(PR)***

Public forum tomorrow to meet Davis
If you have not yet met with delegate candidate John Davis, join him for the public forum on Thursday, Oct. 9, 2008, 5:30pm - 7:30pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Saipan. Learn what John Davis will do as the delegate to the U.S. Congress. Ask him questions and tell him your concerns about the issues that will face the delegate. Bring your family and friends. Help ensure that citizens are well-informed and will vote intelligently on Nov. 4. ***(PR)***

OES PTA meeting
The PTSA officers of the Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of its students that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2008, 6:15pm, in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. ***(PR)***

"5 banks SAFE from the storm."

Jon Markman in *MSN Money*

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Opinion

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Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Earth aboil: New study raises imperative to get serious about reducing greenhouse gas emissions

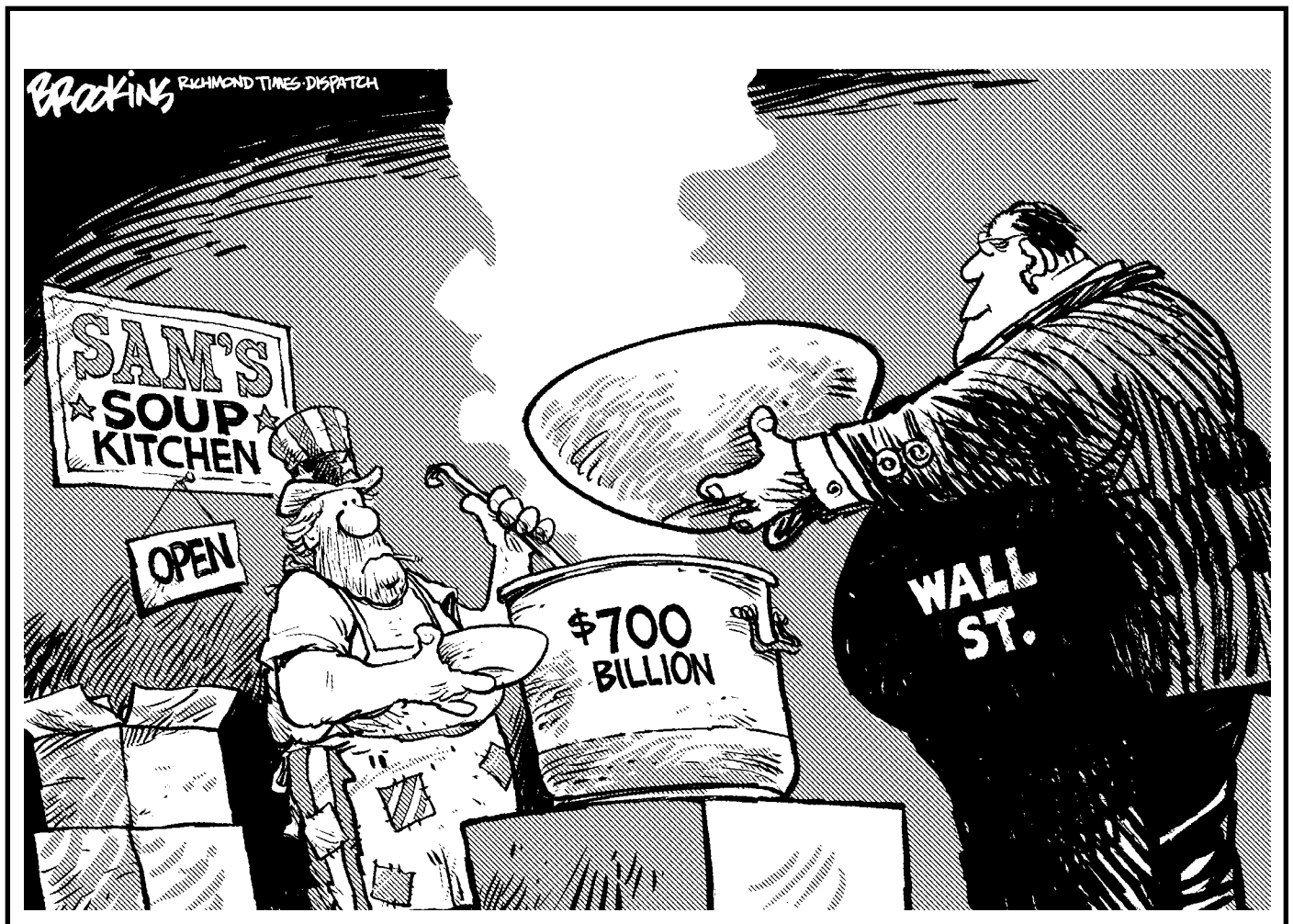
So much carbon was released around the world from burning fossil fuels in 2007 that it could lead to a sweltering 11-degree Fahrenheit increase in the Earth's temperature by the end of the century, according to data recently unveiled by the Global Carbon Project. To put it more starkly, the relentless buildup of carbon emissions in the atmosphere is outpacing the worst-case scenario outlined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

According to the new report from the Global Carbon Project, an Australian-based international consortium of scientists, 8.47 gigatons of emissions were released in 2007, up 2.9 percent over 2006. The consortium pointed out that developed countries spewed carbon at a slightly higher rate than in 1990. But the dramatic increase in emissions is coming from developing nations such as China, India and Brazil. In less than 20 years, they've doubled their carbon output and are now responsible for a little more than half of all emissions.

The IPCC has said that an increase in the Earth's temperature between 3.2 and 9.7 degrees would lead to major melting of glaciers around the world. The impact on species such as polar bears, which need Arctic sea ice to survive, would be devastating. A rise of 11 degrees Fahrenheit, as estimated by the Global Carbon Project, would lead to a rise in sea level that would swamp major population centers and wreak other havoc on the planet.

These dire findings add to the body of evidence that efforts to address climate change must be stepped up and taken with urgency. They also buttress the persistent call by this page and advocates around the world for the United States to lead this effort. The problem can't be solved without the participation of developing countries, but they will not change their ways until Washington does. By inducing polluters to reduce greenhouse gas emissions — by putting a price on carbon and by hastening the advent of alternative energy sources — the United States will lead by example and stop helping to make a bad problem worse.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



Asking the right God question

By GREGORY RODRIGUEZ
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Rodriguez, a columnist for the Times' opinion pages, is director of the California Fellows Program at the New America Foundation.

Forget Bill Maher, Christopher Hitchens, Richard Dawkins and Sam Harris. These atheists du jour have nothing on the most famous anti-theist of all time. Good old Karl Marx is still the most eloquent and thoughtful nonbeliever, and his "religion is the opium of the masses" is still the best one-liner in the business.

But as famous as that zinger is, it's too bad that most people have never read the sentences that come before and after it. Marx was a whole lot more sympathetic to religious faith than most people give him credit for. He saw religion as a source of solace that should be abolished only until the sources of people's pain—an unfair economic system—had been eradicated.

"Religious suffering, " he wrote in 1844, "is, at one and the same time, the expression of real suffering and a protest against real suffering. Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world and the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people.

"The abolition of religion as the illusory happiness of the people is the demand for their real happiness. To call on them to give up their illusions about their condition is to call on them to give up a condition that requires illusions. The criticism of religion is, therefore, in embryo, the criticism of that vale of tears of which religion is the halo."

Marx wasn't just another hater of religion as a childish fantasy or a retreat from rationality. He saw faith as a symptom and not the disease, and he was interested in faith not in terms of right and wrong but because of what it told him about the human condition.

That's a far cry from the tenor of today's brand of assertive atheism. According to surveys, atheists make up only about 4 percent of the U.S. population, or about 5 million adults, who tend to be more educated and affluent than believers. But thanks to a slew of best-selling, God-debunking books and Maher's new film, "Religulous," in which the comedian lampoons religious beliefs, atheism has never had a higher profile in this country.

And, of course, you could ascribe at least some of the resurgence of assertive atheism to a backlash against evangelical Christians and the way they have assertively injected religion into civic life.

The fury of the debate between faith and atheism leaves little room for an inquiry as to why 90 percent of Americans say they believe in God or a supreme being and more than 40 percent say they attend religious services each week. These days, a typically silly argument between a believer and a nonbeliever revolves around whether religious extremists or godless communists murdered more people in the 20th century. Like so many other public debates, the one over religion is dominated by extremes.

A new study out of Northwestern University, perhaps without really meaning to, gets at something much more interesting. It starts to provide data and insight that add to our ability to understand what Marx was getting at—not if there is a God and not whether it makes sense that humans should believe, but simply why humans believe.

The study, by psychology professor Dan P. McAdams and researcher Michelle Albaugh, was aimed at finding out about the religious sources of political leanings. They interviewed 128 devout Christians in and around Chicago, and they avoided the usual questions of "How do you know God exists," or even "Why do you believe?" Instead, they asked their subjects to describe what their lives and the world would be like if they did not have faith. In other words, what would the world be like if Christopher Hitchens were right and there were no God?

The study analyzes the results mostly in terms of political divisions. It found that politically conservative Christians described a godless world "as one of incessant conflict and chaos, expressing strong apprehension regarding people's inability to control their impulses and the attendant breakdown of social relationships and societal institutions."

Liberal Christians, on the other hand, had a different set of concerns. For them, a world without God would be "barren or lifeless, lacking in color and texture, an empty wasteland that would not sustain them" and in which they would feel lost.

All of the respondents generally imagined life without God as "entailing fear, sadness, interpersonal isolation and loss of meaning and hope."

The political findings are intriguing, but not nearly as interesting as the way the question and the answers it elicited get at deeper, core issues. It appears that we do believe out of need, but it's not, as Marx suggested, primarily because of material deprivation. Instead, it looks as if faith answers fear, and many different kinds of fear, which we can begin to delineate in some detail.

In the end, even these specifics don't intrigue me as much as this fact: Zero-sum arguments about faith and faithlessness just go round and round, generating heat and no light. It's better to return to real knowledge and fundamental questions. Rather than arguing over the existence of God, rather than playing believer-nonbeliever gotcha, we learn a whole lot more if we just keep asking ourselves—in as many new ways as possible—why it is that so many of us feel compelled to pray.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Fear of falling

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

I can't guarantee you the race will be won
and that you'll always stay ahead of the pack
But the race never ends for the one who endures
so rest assured, you can always come back

I can't guarantee you the market won't dip
or your stock won't take a turn for the worse
But good plans for investing sell short and buy long
and make blessings from what others call curse

I can't guarantee you we'll always be friends
or we'll always see things eye to eye
So just savor the good and hold memories in heart
even if the time comes for goodbye

I can't guarantee that they'll always look up
or your pedestal won't tip and then tumble
But respect is immune to life's rises and falls
for the person who always stays humble

I can't guarantee you that power persists
unlike Rome things can fall in a day
But lucky's the man who from pieces rebuilds
for to misfortune he never falls prey

I can't guarantee you there'll never be pain
or that your heart won't break if you fall
But I do know it's better to love fully and lose
than half-hearted or never at all

No there's no guarantee that you won't come up short
or your dreams will come true to your plans
But you learn, laugh and love on the safe side of the fall
where control's squarely back in your hands

Physically falling. Falling down. Friendships that fall away. Falling behind. Having a falling out. Plans that fall through. Falling flat. Falling short. Falling from grace. The fall of an empire. Even falling in love. It seems everyone at one time or another has a fear of falling.

Don't fear the fall, my friend. The safe side of the fall and true success is not being able to say, "I never fell," but that you got back up afterwards. It's better to say, "I took the leap, I learned, I loved, I laughed and I lasted."

Note: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

■■■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

Letters to the Editor

Using human resources

I think I have an answer for an improved future in the CNMI. This solution came to me as a result of the bickering that has occurred over power generation mismanagement. Before I begin to describe a path that should be taken by future leadership, let me make my feelings on government corruption clear. Whoever is guilty of using taxpayers' money illegally for self-enrichment must be identified and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law regardless of race, sex, political party, ethnic origin, or family relationships.

In 1978, the CNMI became a self-governing political entity. This had never before happened. And despite all the efforts of dedicated teachers in our classrooms, the general populace and local leadership were ill-prepared for the rapid changes that would occur over the next 30 years. Indigenous folks for the first time were given control over the destiny of the islands. There was much joy and optimism. Governors were elected by popular vote and emulating other democratic locations, these chief executives had the power to appoint others to responsible government positions. At first this was not a problem because we had little change from the Trust Territory days. Then Japan found us and we had a booming tourism industry and a fat government. Everybody was fat and happy. When people don't have problems, there is no need to look for solutions. No need to plan. We were like happy young married folks with a bright future.

Because our population is small and most families are biologically related, governors appointed trusted kin to powerful positions without much thought for the qualifications of the appointee. I guess you could say we established an incestuous political system with too little regard for qualifications. Just as a growing family might give responsibilities to their children for which the children are ill-prepared to perform.

This 30-year tradition and the influx of residents who are not indigenous has led to a polarization within our inhabitants that could be a big problem, unless the politicians wisely tap the richness that this multi-ethnic, multicultural society brings with it. Our multi-ethnic, multicultural society has one ethnic group in political power. I don't want this society to be divided in to the "We's" and the "They's".

Many of the newer statesider and foreign national residents that I have met have vast quantities of education, training, and experience in many different fields. Most are disgruntled with the current state of affairs in the CNMI. Most love this place and would like to help it improve, but they feel powerless. What these people need is not land ownership, but operational ownership. They need to feel that they are part of the solution. Their capabilities need to be utilized.

Participatory democracy is obtained when the opinions of all residents is respected and valued. We don't have to agree, but we must respect each other's points of view, regardless of ethnic origin. The political leaders of the future need to tap the resources of these non-indigenous, CNMI-loving residents. An adopted son may in fact love and respect his father and mother more than a son who was natural born.

Just because a suggestion is made that originates from a non-indigenous person does not mean it has no merit and can be disregarded. We are all humans trying to solve human problems. Forget your ethnicity and join the human race. Our birthplace does not make us that different and we can all love and nurture the CNMI.

Examples of failure to examine and process suggestions made by non-indigenous persons are widespread. A mistake was made by our current leadership in their haste to solve our electrical generation problems. Mistakes are forgivable, except when they are re-occurring or when they result in individual enrichment at the expense of the consumers. Tinian has excess generator capacity that could have easily and much more cost effectively been transferred to Saipan. Instead, our leaders chose to go the Aggreko route. At a yearly cost of $6 million, plus $84,000 per week. From where will this money come? And these gen-sets do not even belong to our people. Tom Arkle has done this research. For approximately $2 million, the Cummins diesel engine manufacturing company dealers in the U.S. can supply and deliver 10 Aggreko-equivalent, gen-sets to Saipan and these gen-sets would pass all EPA regulations. That's one-third of the cost with Aggreko and we would own these for eternity.

This is my point. Because we have a relatively small population, our political leaders must use all human resources available to solve this and any upcoming challenges we will be facing. We cannot afford to waste any human resource, particularly not on the basis of ethnic origin. No matter where you were born, your ideas and contributions must get equal consideration. Future political leaders, remember this! *Use all your resources wisely! Non-indigenous members of the CNMI community want to be involved in producing solutions for us all!*

Roger Ludwick
Sadog Tasi, Saipan

To BOE members:

I was informed by Ms. Betty Miller that she was working with the board and the governor to create an "exclusive bargaining representative of teachers within PSS." As a certified HQT of PSS, I wish to make it known that Ms. Miller *does not* speak for majority of teachers. Any attempt to give the bargaining rights of teachers under federal and CNMI laws to Ms. Miller and ACT without the consent of all or a majority of teachers will be a violation of federal law. I will protest any attempt to give teachers' rights away without their consent. Please don't have me calling the feds to solve this matter, too.

I have tried to work with Ms. Miller and ACT in the past and more recently I offered her a solution, which she has rejected for ACT but that is the limit of her authority. I have also been asking ACT for years to get the majority of teachers to become members and we wouldn't have this problem today. Since the governor refused to appoint me, there is no one in power available to speak for all teachers. Under these conditions the board, PSS and the governor must respect the rights of all teachers and talk to all teachers in an open forum to resolve this with transparency due to the circumstances. In fact, there are two existing AG opinions that BOE should not be involved in the process of teachers to select their teacher rep.

For the board to try and make backroom deals with the rights of the majority of teachers who are not represented by ACT is unethical and it goes against the guidelines for recognizing any group for bargaining purposes.

The main reason I'm speaking up for teachers it because teachers are not so concerned about the teacher rep position as they are about their bargaining rights. Ms. Millers' only goal seems to be Teacher Rep. Teachers want their collective bargaining rights so they can have some effect on policy after experiencing PRAXIS. Teachers want permanent contracts and a lot of other fair things. But most teachers don't want all the drama that comes with the politics within our education system but they continue to push me because many of them feel that I'm their only hope and I truly care.

We need to get it right based on the law this time. Teachers, ACT, BOE, PSS and the governor have no choice but to do the right thing.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Former Teacher Representative
Kagman High School

Thank very much Mayor Tudela

Although we, the cultural song crafters of the CNMI, weren't even formally invited to attend the "Tetseron Konferensian Chamorro" recently held here on Saipan, I am nonetheless gratified that Mayor Juan Tudela publicly acknowledged our existence and the cherishing of our contribution to the preservation of our Chamorro and Carolinian languages by making songs in the vernacular.

The month of October has been proclaimed by Mayor Tudela as the Arts and the Humanities Month. I will treat this month as special, being a Chamorro lyricist and song crafter. I salute all my recording artists and musician colleagues for a job well done. I salute all my fellow Chamorro and Carolinian lyricists of before, now, and the future. Our task is continuous, we cannot stop, ever! *Mas ki seha keke'yao-hao esta, sigi ha' chumo'gue I che'cho' miyo, sa' mampos esti impottante para I famagu'on-ta todos. Mas ki seha guaha na biahe na kulan makat ma akumple lao cho'chu' esti na debi nahu guaha para hu chine'gue.* The Chamorro language preservation is a tremendous undertaking, but someone has got to do the job. I praise the Lord for all the Chamorro language lyricists and song crafters alike.

So please, at least for the month of October, follow the lead of Mayor Tudela and exalt your Chamorro and Carolinian language music makers. Pizza, McDonald's, steak dinner, a six-pack will be greatly appreciated. But the most sincere *si yu'us ma'asse* will be most thanked for.

A warm Pugua Hafa Adai,

Alexandro Sablan
Dandan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲98° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°

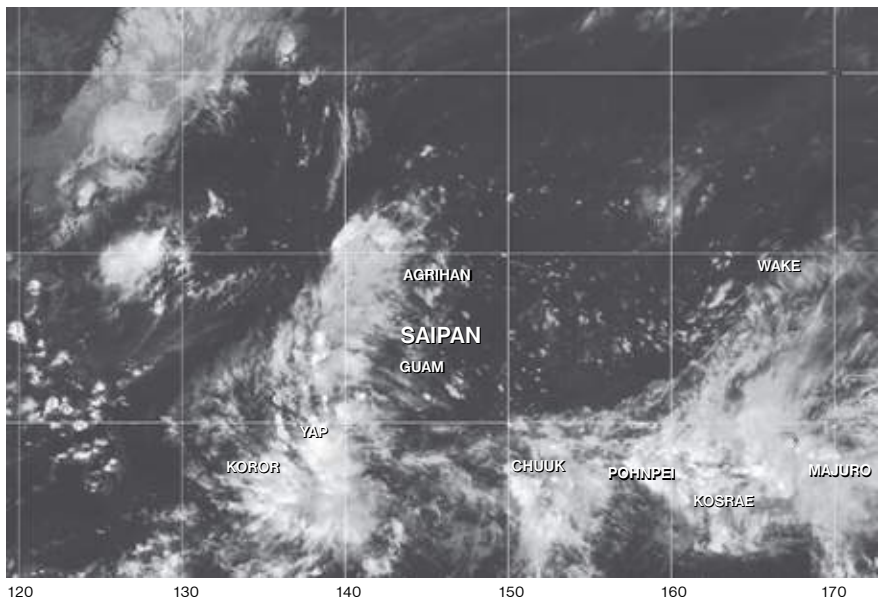
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼70
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼74

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲60	▼51
Beijing	Cloudy	▲68	▼50
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86	▼73
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼73
London	Cloudy	▲61	▼46
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲94	▼62
Manila	Showers	▲85	▼76
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼78
New York	Sunny	▲69	▼56
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼59
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲61	▼45
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲76	▼61
Rome	Cloudy	▲74	▼57
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲61	▼41
San Francisco	Sunny	▲74	▼54
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲69	▼52
Tokyo	Showers	▲70	▼60
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲70	▼57

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends north-south and west of the Marianas from 20N144E southward to near Guam at 13N143E and then to a weak circulation just east of Yap near 7N142E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found all along the trough axis from 21N to 4N between 136E and 144E. Within Yap state near where the circulation is located. Activity has increased to include numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms primarily from 10N to 5N between 139E and 142E. Another surface trough extends between Chuuk and Pohnpei from 4N150E to 7N160E then eastward to just east of Majuro near 7N176E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located within the leading edge of the trough axis between the equator and 10N from 148E to 158E. Further to the east. Strong convergence has brought in an extensive area of numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms between 3N and 10N from 158E to 176E. The heaviest precipitation is located just east of Pohnpei and includes Kosrae and most of the Marshalls south of 10N. Weak trade-wind convergence continues on to east of 180 between 3N and 10N producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
8:02AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
4:02PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
9:25PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:08AM	6:01 PM
Thursday	6:08AM	6:01 PM
Friday	6:08AM	6:00 PM
Saturday	6:08AM	5:59 PM
Sunday	6:08AM	5:59 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:19PM	
Thursday	2:02PM	12:49AM
Friday	2:43PM	1:41AM
Saturday	3:22PM	2:33AM
Sunday	4:00PM	3:25AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844	3:15am	5:55am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Shanghai-Saipan

FM 843	7:50pm	2:15am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Business

Lehman sought millions for execs while seeking aid

Asian markets show signs of life after global rout

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Asian stocks showed signs of life Tuesday after a global market sell-off, with several markets climbing into positive territory or paring losses after opening sharply lower.

Australian stocks jumped after the country's central bank cut interest rates by a bigger-than-expected 1 percentage point to 6 percent in response to the unfolding global financial crisis. The S&P/ASX-200 index rose 2 percent to 4,634 after opening down 3.7 percent.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index erased some losses after briefly falling over 5 percent to below 10,000 for the first time in almost five years. By midday, it was trading about 1.7 percent lower at 10,292.

Markets in South Korea, India, Singapore and Taiwan all edged higher. Trading in Hong Kong was closed for a holiday.

The Bank of Japan announced it was keeping its interest rates unchanged at 0.5 percent, as expected. However, there is growing speculation that the central bank may soon coordinate with the U.S. Federal Reserve and the European Central bank in an emergency policy move.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The now-bankrupt investment bank Lehman Brothers arranged millions in bonuses for fired executives as it pleaded for a federal lifeline, lawmakers learned Monday, as Congress began investigating what went so wrong on Wall Street to prompt a $700 billion government bailout.

The first in a series of congressional hearings on the roots of the financial meltdown yielded few major revelations about Lehman's collapse, and none about why government officials, as they scrambled to avert economic catastrophe, declined to rescue the flagging company while injecting tens of billions of dollars into others.

But it allowed lawmakers still smarting from a politically painful vote Friday for the largest federal market rescue in history to put a face on their outrage at corporate chieftains who took home hundreds of millions of dollars while betting on risky mortgage-backed investments that ultimately brought the financial system to its knees.

That face was Richard S. Fuld Jr., the Lehman chief executive who sat for a two-hour-plus grilling before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee as the panel combed through his pay history, management practices and financial strategies.

"You made all this money by taking risks with other people's money," Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., the panel's chairman, said. "The system worked for you, but it didn't seem to work for the rest of the country and the taxpayers, who now have to pay $700 billion to bail out our economy."

A subdued Fuld opened his testimony declaring, "I take full responsibility for the decisions that I made and for the actions that I took," but he conceded no errors or misjudgments in the chaotic period that led to the firm's bankruptcy.

AP

Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. Chief Executive Richard S. Fuld Jr., wearing tie, is heckled by protesters as he leaves Capitol Hill in Washington after testifying before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Monday, Oct. 6, 2008, on the collapse of Lehman Brothers.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fed eyes plan to fund short-term business loans

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government is weighing a bold plan to buy massive amounts of unsecured short-term debts in a dramatic effort to break through a credit clog that is imperiling the economy. The Federal Reserve is working with the Treasury Department on the plan to buy "commercial paper," a short-term financing mechanism that many companies rely on to finance their day-to-day operations, such as purchasing supplies or making payrolls, according to a person with knowledge of the plan. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the plan is still being put together. The market for this crucial financing, which relies on investors rather than banks, has virtually dried up. That has made it increasingly difficult and expensive for companies to raise money to fund their operations. Commercial paper is a way of borrowing money for short periods, typically ranging from overnight to less than a week.

Paulson turns to Goldman to unclog credit markets

WASHINGTON (AP)—Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson turned to a familiar source when he picked a director for the government's $700 billion bailout program: his former Wall Street firm, Goldman Sachs. Neel Kashkari, a former Goldman executive who has worked with Paulson at the department since July 2006, was chosen Monday as the interim head of the government's unprecedented effort to unclog the credit markets. Kashkari, who was a vice president in Goldman's San Francisco office before joining the department, is one of four former executives from the firm now working feverishly to resolve the financial crisis. Paulson also leans heavily on former Goldman Sachs executives Dan Jester and Ken Wilson, both financial institutions bankers, and Steve Shafran, who focused on corporate restructuring while at Goldman.

Oil rebounds to $90 after falling to 8-month low

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rebounded to above $90 Tuesday in Asia after plunging to an 8-month low the previous day on concerns a significant slowdown in global economic growth will undermine demand for crude. "Prices have moved so far, so fast," said David Moore, commodity strategist at Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Sydney. "I certainly wouldn't say the bounce today is indicative that we've reached a bottom in oil prices." Light, sweet crude for November delivery was up $2.38 to $90.19 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract fell overnight $6.07 to settle at $87.81, the lowest level since Feb. 6. Prices have fallen about 40 percent since reaching a record at $147.27 on July 11. Investor expectations about oil demand have turned completely around in the last three months as financial turmoil has sparked concern a recession could envelope the U.S. and Europe.

Iceland's banks falter

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP)—Iceland's banks face a battle for survival Tuesday after government introduced emergency legislation to give itself sweeping new powers over its collapsing financial sector.

Prime Minister Geir H. Haarde warned late Monday that the heavy exposure of the tiny country's banking sector to the global financial turmoil was raising the specter of "national bankruptcy."

The government's attempt to gain control of the increasingly dire situation and restore some confidence in the country's hard-hit banking sector followed a day of panic Monday that saw trading in shares of major banks suspended and the Icelandic krona shrink in value against the euro.

Iceland is paying the price for an economic boom of recent years that saw its newly affluent companies go on an acquisition spree across Europe and its banking sector grow to dwarf the rest of the economy. Bank assets are nine times annual gross domestic product of 14 billion euros ($19 billion).

Investors are now punishing the whole country for the banking sector's heavy exposure to the global credit squeeze—its currency has gone through the floor, imports have fallen and inflation is soaring.

A major fear is that the government will struggle to rescue any other failing banks after last week coming to the rescue of the country's third largest bank, Glitnir.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

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STADT HAMBURG	023E	9/27 Sat	9/25 Thu	9/25 Thu	9/23 Tue	9/20 Sat	10/3 Fri	9/29 Mon	9/28 Sun	9/21 Sun	9/21 Sun	9/29 Mon	10/3 Fri	10/4 Sat	10/7 Tue
MELL SENOKO	011E	10/4 Sat	10/2 Thu	10/2 Thu	9/30 Tue	9/27 Sat	10/10 Fri	10/6 Mon	10/5 Sun	9/28 Sun	9/28 Sun	10/6 Mon	10/10 Fri	10/11 Sat	10/14 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	016E	10/11 Sat	10/9 Thu	10/9 Thu	10/7 Tue	10/4 Sat	10/17 Fri	10/13 Mon	10/12 Sun	10/5 Sun	10/5 Sun	10/13 Mon	10/17 Fri	10/18 Sat	10/21 Tue
STADT HAMBURG	024E	10/18 Sat	10/16 Thu	10/16 Thu	10/14 Tue	10/11 Sat	10/24 Fri	10/20 Mon	10/19 Sun	10/12 Sun	10/12 Sun	10/20 Mon	10/24 Fri	10/25 Sat	10/28 Tue
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Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
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MELL SINGAPORE	017E	11/15 Sat	11/16 Sun	11/16 Sun	SKIP	11/20 Thu	11/21 Fri	11/22 Sat	11/25 Tue	11/28 Fri	11/29 Sat	12/4 Thu	12/23 Tue	12/21 Sun	12/3 Wed

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Nation

Character attacks emerge in McCain-Obama race

By CHARLES BABINGTON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AMERICA VOTES

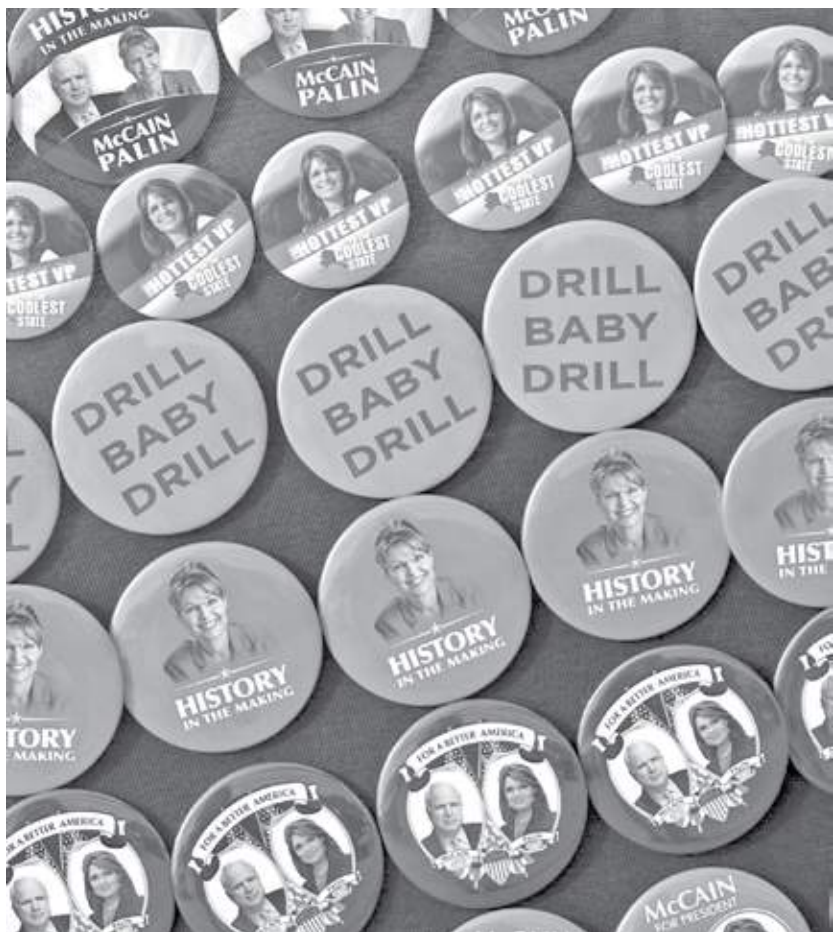
ASHEVILLE, N.C. (AP)—The two men who supposedly exemplified a different kind of politics are engaged in an increasingly bitter campaign as character attacks are emerging to compete with issues like the troubled economy.

With the election four weeks away, chances dimmed that Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama could reclaim the often lofty images they cultivated early in their presidential bids as their campaigns focused new attention Monday on decades-old events involving a former radical from Chicago and a convicted thrift owner from Arizona.

McCain's campaign added another figure when his running mate, Sarah Palin, said there should be more discussion of Obama's incendiary former pastor, Jeremiah Wright.

Obama and McCain faced cameras Monday with harsh words for each other. Obama, taking a break from debate prep in Asheville, N.C., accused McCain's campaign of "smear tactics."

In Albuquerque, N.M., McCain delivered an unusually scathing broadside. He accused Obama of lying about McCain's efforts to regulate the home loan industry. And he suggested Obama is a mysterious figure who cannot be trusted.



AP

Campaign buttons in support of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin are on display to supporters waiting outside Germain Arena at a rally for the vice presidential candidate on Monday, Oct. 6, 2008, in Estero, Fla.

"Who is the real Barack Obama?" McCain said to a cheering crowd. "Ask such questions and all you get in response is another barrage of angry insults."

Some analysts called the change in tone disappointing but predictable. Presidential candidates who are losing on policy issues often turn to character, they said.

As McCain's poll standings fell along with the economy, his campaign began the new character criticisms and used Palin to spearhead the push. Obama's campaign didn't wait long to respond.

Brookings Institution political scientist Thomas E. Mann said he had felt for months that McCain "would eventually have to try to undermine Obama as an acceptable choice for president and commander in chief." Key issues, he said, including "an economy in turmoil, an unpopular war and a politically discredited president are working powerfully against McCain and the Republican Party in general."

Obama, meanwhile, has learned the lessons of Michael Dukakis and John Kerry. Those Democrats lost presidential elections after hesitating to counter hard-hitting and factually dubious attacks on their character and judgment. The shorthand terms for those attacks—"Willie Horton" and "Swiftboating"—have become a call-to-arms for Democratic activists who vow always to return fire with fire.

"We don't throw the first punch, but we'll throw the last," Obama said Monday on Tom Joyner's syndicated radio show.

Several Democrats said on Sunday talk shows that Obama's campaign would revisit McCain's long-ago involvement in the thrift scandal if the personal attacks on him continued. Within hours, the Obama campaign released a memo and Web video doing just that.

Obama and McCain have hit each other at personal levels before. But the vitriol increased dramatically Saturday, when Palin repeatedly raised Obama's relationship with former 1960s radical Bill Ayers.

Obama, she said, was "palling around with terrorists who would target their own country."

Ayers helped found the violent Weather Underground group, whose members were blamed for several bombings when Obama was 8. Obama has denounced Ayers' radical views and activities.

Deadlines set for designating polar bear habitat

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—The federal government will designate "critical habitat" for polar bears off Alaska's coast, a decision that could add restrictions to future offshore petroleum exploration or drilling.

Federal law prohibits agencies from taking actions that may adversely modify critical habitat and interfere with polar bear recovery. That likely will affect oil and gas activity, said Kassie Siegel of the Center for Biological Diversity, one of three groups that sued to force the critical habitat designation.

"Other than global warming, the worst thing that's going on in polar bear habitat right now is oil development and the potential for oil spills," Siegel said.

Bruce Woods, a spokesman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage, said it's not known what area in the Chukchi Sea off Alaska's northwest coast might be designated for polar bears, especially given that sea ice conditions are changing and areas now covered by ice might in the future be open water.

The agreement to designate critical habitat was filed Monday as part of a partial settlement of a lawsuit brought by Greenpeace, the Natural Resources Defense Council and Siegel's group.

They filed the lawsuit in March after Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne missed a January deadline for declaring polar bears threatened or endangered.

Kempthorne on May 14 declared polar bears "threatened," or likely to become endangered, citing polar bears' need for sea ice, the dramatic loss of sea ice in recent decades and computer models that suggest sea ice is likely to further recede in the future.

Polar bears use sea ice to hunt seals. Summer 2007 set a record low for sea ice in the Arctic. The ice melt this summer was the second lowest on record, according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado.

Oil and gas development was not seen as a major factor in the listing decision.

Siegel said in most cases, critical habitat must be designated at the same time a species is listed as threatened or endangered.

Fan use linked to lower risk of sudden baby death

CHICAGO (AP)—Using a fan to circulate air seemed to lower the risk of sudden infant death syndrome in a study of nearly 500 babies, researchers reported Monday. Placing babies on their backs to sleep is the best advice for preventing SIDS, a still mysterious cause of death.

Experts also recommend a firm mattress, removing toys and pillows from cribs, and keeping infants from getting too warm.

Such practices helped slash U.S. SIDS deaths by more than half over a decade to about 2,100 in 2003. But SIDS remains the leading cause of death in infants ages 1 month to 1 year.

"The baby's sleeping environment really matters," said study senior author Dr. De-Kun Li of the Kaiser Permanente Division of Research in Oakland, Calif. "This seems to suggest that by improving room ventilation we can further reduce risk."

SIDS is the sudden death of an otherwise healthy infant that can't be attributed to any other cause. These babies may have brain abnormalities that prevent them from gasping and waking when they don't get enough oxygen.

The new study, published in October's Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine, offers another way to make sure babies get enough air.

More research is needed, said Dr. Fern Hauck of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, but she said that because fan use is in line with theories, it may be worth considering.

'Bride' and 'groom' to be restored to Calif. forms

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The words "bride" and "groom" will reappear on all marriage license applications issued in California starting next month, state health officials said.

In a notice posted on its Web site, the California Department of Public Health says it is making the change because many couples still wanted the option of identifying themselves in traditional terms.

When same-sex marriage became legal in the state on June 16, the health department issued new gender-neutral marriage forms with the words "Party A" and "Party B" where "bride" and "groom" used to be.

The latest paperwork, which county clerks will be required to use starting Nov. 17, will have blank spaces for applicants' names and personal information next to the words "First Person Data" and "Second Person Data" and optional boxes for checking "bride" or "groom."

ACROSS THE NATION

6 die in family murder-suicide in upscale LA home

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An unemployed man with an advanced finance degree who was despondent over his own financial problems shot and killed his wife, three children, mother-in-law and then himself in an upscale home in a gated community, police said Monday. Officers found the bodies Monday morning after the wife failed to show up at a neighbor's home to go to work, Deputy Chief Michel Moore said. The deaths occurred sometime after Saturday evening. A handgun that had been bought Sept. 16 was found near the father's body, Moore said. The father left two suicide notes—one for police and one for friends and relatives—and a will. The notes attest to the man's financial difficulties, and he takes responsibility for killing his family members, Moore said. The family members' names were not immediately released because police wanted to make sure the children's schools had time to make grief counselors available. The children were sons ages 19, 12 and 7.

Prosecutors move to delay Rezko sentencing

CHICAGO (AP)—Federal prosecutors moved Monday to delay indefinitely the sentencing of convicted fundraiser Antoin "Tony" Rezko, sending their strongest hint yet that he is ready to spill his political secrets. The filing asks for a postponement while prosecutors and defense attorneys "engage in discussions that could affect their sentencing postures." Speculation has simmered for weeks that the key fundraiser for Gov. Rod Blagojevich and Sen. Barack Obama was whispering what he knows about corruption in Illinois government to federal prosecutors in hopes of getting a lighter sentence. Rezko raised more than $1 million for Blagojevich's campaign fund and was one of the governor's key advisers. He was frequently by the governor's side in the early days of his administration and could be in a position to shed considerable light on federal investigations into patronage hiring and a host of other issues involving Blagojevich.

Bus driver in fatal California crash is arrested

WILLIAMS, Calif. (AP)—A bus driver with a string of motor vehicle offenses and a history of substance abuse was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence Monday, hours after his casino-bound charter bus ran into a ditch, killing eight people. Investigators also said the bus had an invalid license plate, and they were looking into whether the driver had proper permits to operate the vehicle. The bus ran off the road Sunday while taking passengers to a northern California casino. About 30 people were injured. Records show 52-year-old Quintin Watts of Stockton had been cited for speeding and other violations that resulted in loss of his license for nearly two years. He regained his driving privileges last January. Watts was arrested as he lay critically injured in his hospital bed. His mother said he had wrestled with drug and alcohol problems, was jailed several times on drug charges and had smashed a car carrying a friend into a tree a few years ago, though neither was seriously hurt.

Asia

China vows overhaul of 'chaotic' milk industry

BEIJING (AP)—China's Cabinet vowed a complete overhaul of the scandal-ridden dairy industry Monday, pledging to inspect every link from the farm to the dinner table to try to restore public trust in Chinese-made food products.

In its strongest action yet, China's highest level of government called the industry "chaotic" and acknowledged there was a lack of oversight.

At Monday's meeting of the State Council, or Cabinet, the government said it would punish companies and officials involved in the contamination of milk products that has been blamed in the deaths of four babies and for sickening more than 54,000 children.

The contamination scandal had forced a halt in production of China's iconic White Rabbit candy, but the state-run *China Daily* newspaper reported Tuesday that output had resumed.

The popular vanilla-flavored sweets—sold in more than 50 countries, including the United States—were pulled out of stores around the world last month and production stopped as its maker said the candy may have been contaminated.

Guan Sheng Yuan Co. said White Rabbit candy production has started again because the company is now using a safe supply of powdered milk, but it did not say when sales would resume.

The scandal revealed "that China's dairy production and circulation has been chaotic and supervision has been gravely absent," said a notice about the meeting on the government's Web site. Unscrupulous "elements" and companies had also put profit above people's lives, it said.

Police detained six more people suspected of tampering with milk in northern China, a spokeswoman said, bringing to 32 the number of people arrested in the scandal.

Monday's meeting, chaired by Premier Wen Jiabao, was the latest attempt by the Chinese government to show it is tackling the widespread contamination of milk and other dairy products with melamine, an industrial chemical used in making plastics and fertilizers. It was the second time the State Council, China's highest government body, has met since the crisis broke last month.

China has struggled to contain public dismay and growing international concern, castigating local officials for negligence while promising to raise product safety standards. But the scandal has continued to lead to recalls and the blocking of Chinese imports in numerous countries.

The head of China's quality watchdog said the country was stepping up checks on its exports to ensure they conformed to the food safety standards of recipient countries, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

"Food safety concerns not only the health of the public, but also the life of business," Xinhua quoted Wang Yong, the director of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, the agency responsible for ensuring that China's food supply chain is safe.

AP

In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency on Monday, Oct. 6, 2008, Qu Ruie, right, a supervisor to the Dongfang Dairy Company, supervises the inspecting process of milk in Xi'an, north China's Shannxi Province, Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008.

ASIAN BRIEFS

SKorea, NKorea seek compromise in nuclear deadlock

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The United States and North Korea are being flexible in their effort to reach a compromise to resolve the dispute in the North's nuclear disarmament process, South Korea's foreign minister said Tuesday. The North stopped disabling its main nuclear facilities in mid-August, rejecting a U.S. insistence that the regime should undergo a thorough inspection of its declaration of nuclear programs. Washington's top nuclear envoy visited Pyongyang last week to resolve the impasse, but it was unclear whether it produced any breakthrough. But on Tuesday, Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan told a South Korean parliamentary committee that Washington and Pyongyang were trying to strike a compromise by exerting "flexibility" and "considerably reflecting each other's position." However, Yu said he believes the U.S. would not make any substantial change in its demand for a rigorous nuclear verification. He did not elaborate.

Malaysia bids to try Anwar case in higher court

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim slammed a government bid to move his sodomy trial from a lower court to the High Court, saying Tuesday that he fears he will end up facing a biased judge. Anwar has been charged with sodomizing a 23-year-old former male aide, and faces up to 20 years in jail if convicted. Anwar, who led the opposition to spectacular electoral gains this year and sees himself as the next prime minister, has dismissed the allegation as a political plot by the government. Before a date could be set for Anwar's trial to begin in a district court, Attorney General Abdul Gani Patail, the top judicial official in the country, ordered it to be transferred to the High Court. "I am concerned over the issue of fair trial," Anwar told reporters during a break in a hearing before district court Judge Komathy Suppiah to decide if the case should stay with her or be transferred to the High Court.

Philippine AIG unit seeks to assure customers it remains strong ahead of sale

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine unit of American International Group Inc. sought to dispel concerns Monday that the sale of the country's largest insurer would affect its ability to pay claims. Jose Cuisia, president and CEO of Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co., or Philamlife, said AIG has decided to unload the unit to pay off an $85 billion (€61.7 billion) loan extended by the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank during the ongoing credit crisis. "They have to sell some of the valuable assets to generate that kind of money," Cuisia told reporters. "This is the reason why Philamlife is being sold to the public." The insurer also took out a full-page ad in several of the nation's dailies, saying, "The financial issues pertaining to our parent company, AIG, do not affect our ability to pay claims and underwrite new policies." Cuisia said the company, with interests spanning banking, mutual funds, preneed and nonlife insurance, has been a leader in the industry for the past 61 years. He said it had more than 170 billion pesos (US$3.7 billion) in assets.

Taliban, Afghan officials meet in Saudi Arabia

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A former Taliban ambassador said Monday that the hard-line militants sat with Afghan officials and Saudi King Abdullah over an important religious meal in Saudi Arabia late last month as the insurgency raged back home.

Abdul Salam Zaeef, the Taliban's former ambassador to Pakistan, denied that the get-together could be construed as peace talks. But President Hamid Karzai has long called for negotiations with the Taliban, and the meeting could spur future initiatives.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said Monday that the militant group is independent from al-Qaida. The U.S. and other Western countries will never accept a peace deal with al-Qaida, the group behind 9/11. That could provide incentive for Taliban leader Mullah Omar to cement his independence from bin Laden's organization.

Though U.S. officials did not confirm the alleged meeting, Defense Secretary Robert Gates on Monday endorsed efforts to reach out to members of the Taliban or other militants in Afghanistan who may be considered reconcilable.

"That is one of the key long-term solutions in Afghanistan, just as it has been in Iraq," he told reporters en route to Europe. "Part of the solution is reconciliation with people who are willing to work with the Afghan government going forward."

Those who are not willing to work with the government must be dealt with militarily, he said.

Thai police fire tear gas against crowd

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Riot police using tear gas clashed Tuesday with several thousand protesters who barricaded Parliament while trying to block the new prime minister from delivering his first policy speech to lawmakers. Scores of protesters were injured.

Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat opened the parliamentary session after a 90-minute delay despite a boycott by the opposition Democrat Party, which said it objected to the government's use of force in clearing protesters outside the building.

Somchai made no immediate comment about the chaos as he stood before lawmakers reading from a prepared policy text, covering issues from the global financial crisis to global warming and health care.

As he spoke, anti-government protesters regrouped outside Parliament in an effort to surround the building and police briefly fired more tear gas canisters to disperse a group of demonstrators armed with wooden batons and slingshots.

The unrest was the latest twist in a political crisis that has gripped Thailand for six weeks and virtually paralyzed the government.

Pakistan govt to deport all Afghans from tribal region

KHAR, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan ordered the deportation of about 50,000 Afghan refugees in an insurgency-wracked tribal region amid a major military offensive against al-Qaida and Taliban fighters.

The government said it was expelling all Afghan refugees in the Bajur tribal region, alleging many of them have links to militant groups. Police in the town of Khar in Bajur arrested 25 Afghans and said they would soon be deported.

"The orders have been issued to the tribal police to push all of them (refugees) out," said local government official Abdul Haseeb, adding that their homes would be bulldozed to keep them from returning.

A government offensive in Bajur that began in early August has claimed some 1,000 lives. It comes amid increased U.S. pressure on the government of President Asif Ali Zardari to crackdown on militants in the restive border region where al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden is believed to be hiding.

Washington has long complained Pakistan is unwilling or unable to take strong action against the extremists.

World

Nobels awarded for AIDS, cancer virus research

By MALCOLM RITTER
AP SCIENCE WRITER

Two French scientists who discovered the AIDS virus and a German who defied convention in showing a viral cause for cervical cancer shared the Nobel Prize in medicine Monday for breakthroughs that have led to lifesaving drugs and a vaccine.

Francoise Barre-Sinoussi and Luc Montagnier of France were cited for their discovery of HIV in 1983. They shared the award with Germany's Harald zur Hausen, who found that certain human papilloma viruses cause cervical cancer, the second most common cancer among women worldwide.

Zur Hausen discovered that two types of HPV promote cervical cancer, bucking a prevailing idea that blamed a different kind of virus. He made the viruses available to the scientific community. That led to the development of HPV vaccines to prevent cervical cancer. Vaccination is recommended for millions of young women and girls in the U.S.

Zur Hausen will get half of the $1.4 million prize, while the two French scientists split the other half.

The discovery the AIDS virus by Montagnier and Barre-Sinoussi was crucial to understanding the biology of AIDS and how to fight it, the Nobel Assembly said in its citation issued in Stockholm, Sweden. Since the scientists' work in the early 1980s, millions of people with HIV are still alive thanks to new drug treatments.

The announcement of the Nobel winners was notable for one scientist who was not named: U.S. researcher Dr. Robert Gallo, who almost 25 years ago also claimed credit for the discovery of HIV and who played a big role in research of the disease.

The dual claims led to a high-profile dispute between Gallo and Montagnier. They agreed publicly in 1987 to share the discovery credit equally, as part of a settlement of patent claims for an AIDS blood test. But Gallo later said he'd found that his lab's cultures had accidentally become contaminated with AIDS virus from Montagnier's lab.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, a prominent AIDS researcher and director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Bethesda, Md., said the French scientists clearly identified HIV first and deserved Monday's honor.

Gallo would have been "an obvious choice" to be included on the Nobel if the prize's rules had allowed for a fourth recipient, Fauci said. That's because of Gallo's role in showing HIV causes AIDS and in a technical advance that allowed HIV to be isolated, he said.

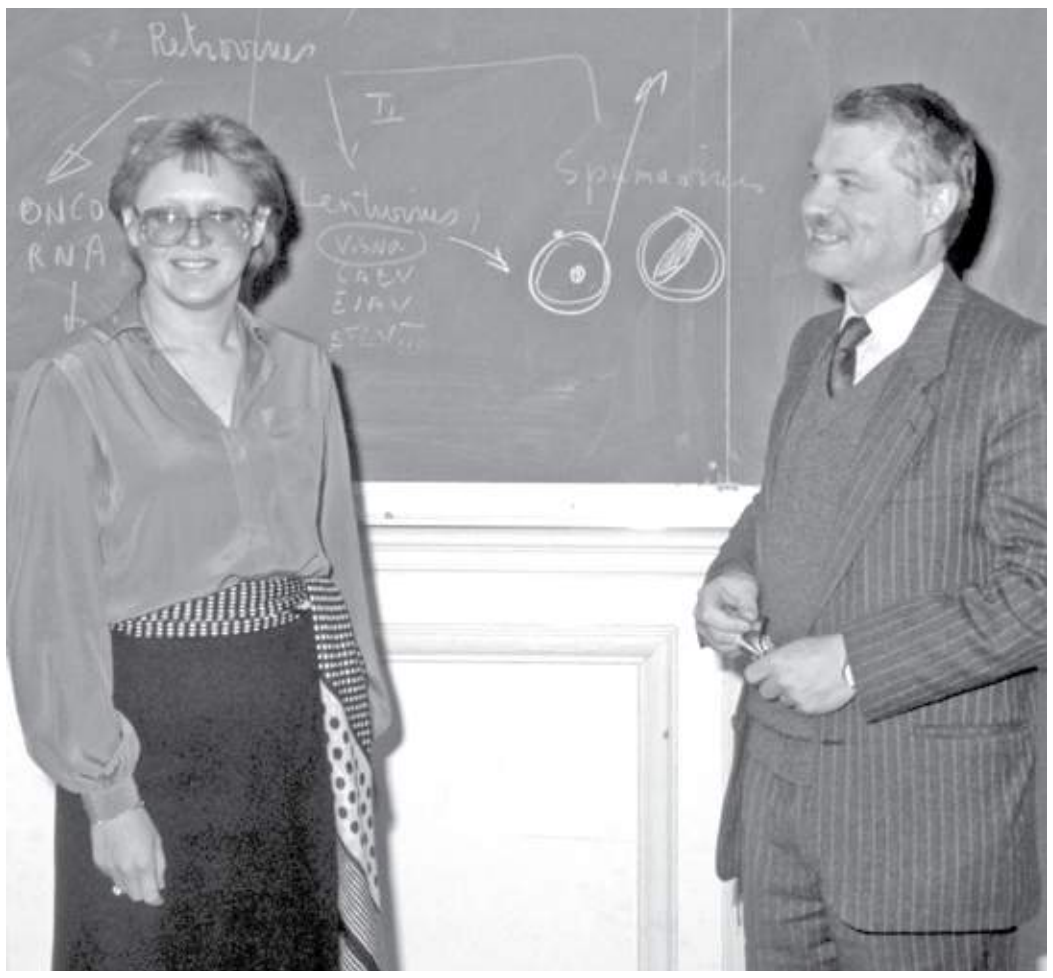
Gallo, director of the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland, told The Associated Press that it was "a disappointment" not to be included in the Nobel. But he said all three of the winners deserved the honor.

Reached in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, where he is attending an international AIDS conference, Montagnier said he wished Gallo had been included in the prize.

"It is certain that he deserved this as much as us two," he said.

Montagnier said the prize "encourages us all to keep going until we reach the goal at the end of this effort."

He said he remains optimistic about conquering AIDS. Progress in developing a vaccine to prevent it has been frustrating.



AP

In this photo released on Monday, Oct. 6, 2008 by the Pasteur Institute in Paris, French scientist Francoise Barre-Sinoussi, left, and Luc Montagnier pose at the Pasteur Institute in Paris in this 1985 file photo.

Lebanon, US set up joint military commission

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)—The United States and Lebanon on Monday set up a joint military commission to bolster military cooperation—a move that follows the first visit by the newly elected Lebanese president to Washington.

The development comes against the backdrop of a Syrian troop buildup along Lebanon's northern border and follows bombings blamed on Islamic militants in the two neighboring Mideast countries.

The United States is a backer of Lebanon's army and has pledged more help since President Michel Suleiman's September meeting with President Bush. At the time, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates was quoted as saying the Lebanese army was given nearly $400 million in military assistance. A further $60 million worth of aid, including helicopters, ammunition and Humvees, is awaiting Congress' approval.

A joint statement Monday by the U.S. Embassy in Beirut and the Lebanese army said the commission will provide an annual opportunity to discuss military cooperation. It also said the two sides signed three new military contracts worth $63 million in U.S. grants to the Lebanese army for secure communications, ammunition and infantry weapons.

Lebanese Defense Minister Elias Murr and U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Mary Beth Long led the commission's inaugural session Monday. Long arrived in Beirut Sunday, joining U.S. Deputy Secretary of State for Near East Affairs David Hale who has held separate talks with Lebanese politicians for several days.

Europe governments go their own way on crisis

LONDON (AP)—Individual European governments issued a flurry of deposit guarantees to shore up their banks but fell short of any coordinated action Monday to deal with the crisis sweeping financial markets, even as stock markets crashed and the euro sank to its lowest level for over a year.

Though Europe's officials appeared to be paying lip service to the need for working together, they continued to make key announcements on deposits on a go-it-alone basis.

France, which holds the rotating leadership of the European Union, said its 27 governments have each pledged to take "all necessary measures to ensure the stability of the financial system" but no joint action was forthcoming, fueling the belief that the crisis would be handled differently by each country.

Germany's Finance Minister Peer Steinbrueck made clear his government's opposition to the idea that the euro zone's single largest economy should put up money to prop up institutions outside his country.

Hamas lawmakers: Abbas term ends in January

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Hamas will cease to recognize Mahmoud Abbas as Palestinian president after Jan. 8 and replace him with one of its own leaders, according to a resolution approved by the Islamic movement's legislators Monday.

The Hamas resolution demands that Abbas issue a decree by Wednesday to hold new presidential elections within three months, to coincide with what Hamas says is the end of his term.

Abbas aides said the resolution appeared aimed at stepping up pressure on the president, a political moderate, ahead of a new attempt by Egypt to mediate a power-sharing deal between the rival camps and is certain to deepen the split between Hamas and Abbas' Fatah movement.

"I believe Hamas is coming to this point just to undermine the national dialogue before it starts in Cairo," said Abbas aide Nimer Hamad referring to the Egyptian-brokered talks expected to begin next month.

If Hamas does withdraw recognition from Abbas, it would sever another link between the two sides and also undermine Abbas' legitimacy in the eyes of many Palestinians.

Abbas, the leader of the Fatah movement, was elected president in January 2005. A year later, Hamas defeated Fatah by a landslide in parliamentary elections.

Hamas has been in control of Gaza since its violent takeover of the territory in June 2007, leaving Abbas only in charge of the West Bank.

The Basic Law, a forerunner to a Palestinian constitution, says both president and parliament are elected to four-year terms. Before leaving office, the Fatah parliament passed a law stipulating that future presidential and parliamentary elections be held simultaneously.

However, the Hamas-controlled parliament never amended the Basic Law to include this new clause. As a result, Hamas argues Abbas' term ends in January, while Fatah says he can stay in office an extra year.

WORLD BRIEFS

UN chief wants new look at UN Georgia mission

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. mission monitoring a cease-fire between Georgia and the separatist Abkhazia region should be extended for four months to explore whether to continue U.N. involvement following the Georgian-Russian war, the U.N. chief said Monday. In a report to the U.N. Security Council, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the conflict that led to Russia's recognition of the independence of both breakaway areas had changed the context in which the U.N. has operated for the last 14 years. The Black Sea province of Abkhazia has been independently run since 1993, when two years of fighting with Georgian troops ended with a U.N.-monitored cease-fire. Two-thirds of Abkhazia residents hold Russian passports, and along with South Ossetia it had sought independence or union with Russia.

Armed man releases his hostages in Guatemala City

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—An armed man in a jealous rage took 42 hostages in a Guatemala City call center on Monday and released them unharmed and turned himself to police after a five-hour standoff, police said. National Police spokesman Donald Gonzalez said Luis Escobar, 29, overpowered a security guard at the 24/7 Call Center and took his gun late Monday. Police officer Miguel Tzoc said Escobar was in a jealous rage over a former girlfriend who worked in the call center. Escobar first released 40 hostages but kept his former girlfriend and her new boyfriend. He released the couple 10 minutes later and turned himself in to police. Escobar had opened fire on three paramedics who tried to enter the building to talk to him. He claimed to have an explosive and threatened to detonate it, Gonzalez said. Gonzalez said Escobar didn't have any explosives on his body, but police were still searching the building early Tuesday.

Major gunrunning and graft trial opens in Paris

PARIS (AP)—The son of a former French president, an Israeli-Russian billionaire and a tycoon with ties to Arizona's jet set were among the headliners Monday as 42 defendants went on trial in Paris, accused in a worldwide web of trafficked arms to Angola, money laundering and kickbacks. Defense lawyers and Angola's government are trying to stop the show, however, arguing the trial has no right to go on. Prosecutors allege that between 1993 and 1998, two key suspects—French magnate Pierre Falcone, a longtime resident of Scottsdale, Ariz., and Arkady Gaydamak, an Israeli businessman based in France at the time—organized a total of $791 million in Russian arms sales to Angola, a breach of French government rules. Most of the other suspects are accused of receiving money or gifts, undeclared to tax authorities, from a company run by Falcone in exchange for political or commercial favors. Investigators say the corruption grew into a tangle of laundered money and parallel diplomacy that left a stain on France's relations with Africa.

Campus Life

Early data shows PSS enrollment down by 200

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Preliminary data from the Public School System shows a slight decrease in overall student enrollment.

As of Sept. 22, PSS had 11,069 students enrolled in the elementary, secondary, Early Intervention Program, and Headstart program, according to PSS Education Commissioner Rita Sablan, who presented the numbers to Board of Education members last week.

The number is a slight decrease from the 11,262 enrolled last fall.

In fall 2006, 11,664 students were enrolled in the respective schools and programs.

This year, according to Sablan's preliminary numbers, there are 5,570 elementary students. In fall 2007, 5,706 elementary students were enrolled. There are 4,976 secondary students this fall, compared to 5,036 last fall.

There are 61 students in the Early Intervention Program, an increase from the 58 in the program last year. Headstart numbers remained the same at 462.

Official numbers will be presented to the Board of Education at their next meeting.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Preliminary data from the Public School System shows a slight decrease in overall student enrollment.

Q&A with ACT president Betty Miller

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Association of Commonwealth Teachers, an organization for teachers within the CNMI, is currently working on several education-related issues.

Miller

Acting San Vicente vice principal Betty Miller is the current ACT president. Here she answers some questions about the organization.

Question: What does ACT aim to do?

Answer: The Association of Commonwealth Teachers has three purposes:

1. Facilitating an open flow and exchange of information relating to teaching and education in the CNMI.

2. Elevate and unify the teaching profession by maintaining and improving the conditions of its teachers with respect to salaries, conditions of employment, working conditions, and the right to freedom of expression in and out of the classroom, without fear of repercussions.

3. Advocate and support teachers and other student contact professionals by upholding professional standards and cooperating with educational associations, political bodies, and other agencies interested in quality teacher education.

Q: What goals is ACT working for currently?

A: The Association holds a General Membership meeting at least once a quarter to determine current concerns or needs of teachers. We schedule additional meetings throughout the quarter, should the need arise. We currently have several projects underway based on the needs and concerns expressed by teachers:

1. We continue to work with the Governor's office and Board of Education to determine the process required to garner an appointment of a Teachers Representative to the Board of Education. The Association of Commonwealth Teachers wholeheartedly encourages teachers to become actively involved in the selection process, once it has been determined by the current Board of Education and the Governor.

2. We recently completed a research project regarding the CNMI plan for Highly Qualified Teachers in the CNMI. The Board of Education has asked us to prepare a presentation regarding any changes we may want to propose. We have finished analyzing the data, have surveyed teachers as to proposed changes, and are finalizing our recommendations for the BOE.

3. We have been working with the BOE to review the status of Step 11 employees who did not receive compensation for passing Praxis. We are hopeful the matter will be resolved at the next Board of Education meeting.

4. We have held three workshops designed to support teachers who have not yet become Highly Qualified. We are in the process of developing a support network and packet of suggestions for non-HQT teachers, which will be delivered to all schools in the CNMI shortly.

5. We will soon be involved in assisting schools that would like to participate in Operation CNMI Home Front Support to provide care packages for our troops off island over the holidays.

6. In addition to the above, in the previous year we have established a website for the teachers of the CNMI. The website contains the following links: A teacher's blog, PSS Central Office, *Marianas Variety*, *Saipan Tribune*, a photo page for current events in schools or with the Association, and quotes and poems submitted by teachers. The website is www.cnmiactnow.com

CONTACT INFORMATION
Association of Commonwealth Teachers
- www.cnmiactnow.com
- cnmiactnow@gmail.com
- PO Box 7018 SVRB
- (670) 287-2386

Q: Who can be a member of ACT?

A: As per our bylaws ,"membership in the Association is open year-round to all CNMI public school teachers and other professional student contact personnel. Membership shall automatically continue unless otherwise terminated. If dues are levied, members will be required to pay dues for the current school year, regardless of when they enroll."

Q: How many members are currently in ACT?

A: We conduct a membership drive and update our membership status each year during Education Day, as that is the only time all teachers in the CNMI are gathered in one location. Our membership update last Education Day shows 203 members. This varies a bit as teachers leave the system, and new teachers enroll. We will be updating our roster this Education Day in November.

Q: Why did you become involved in ACT?

A: I initially joined ACT because I wanted to network with teachers in other schools and see how we could work together to address some of the concerns impacting teachers in the CNMI. It was not my intention to run for an officer's position. When I was nominated as a candidate for the election of officers, I initially refused. Upon reflection I realized that, if we wanted to affect a positive change for teachers in the CNMI, we had to do more than just complain about problems in the system. We needed to work collaboratively with the Board of Education. It was time for us to go beyond "talking the talk" and start "walking the walk." It was time to ACT and I needed to do my part.

GES in need of a playground

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Garapan Elementary School Principal Yvonne Reyes is still hoping a school playground will be a reality for students this school year.

"I really want a playground when you think about the kids needing the release of energy," she said.

The school closed the old playground because the old equipment were rusty and posed a danger to students, Reyes said.

"Now they just have a lawn and each other, which is going to make more contact with each other," she said, adding that disciplinary problems sometimes arise with the increased contact.

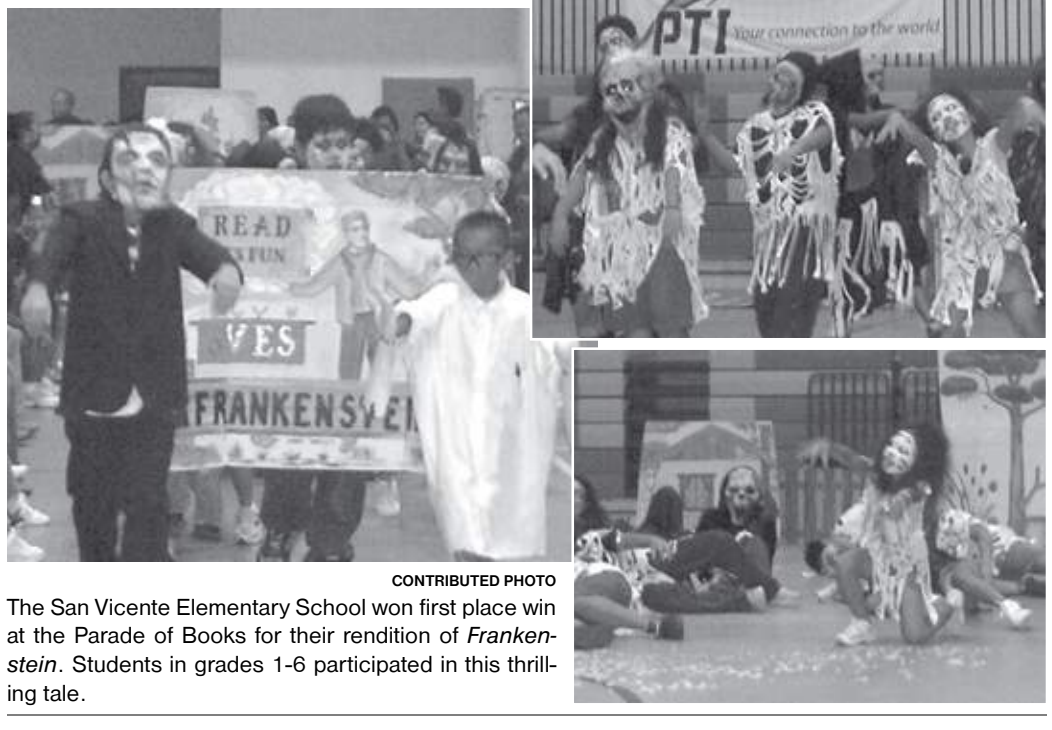
Approximately $18,000 has been raised for a playground but $10,000 more is needed, she said.

Two new classrooms have opened at GES this school year in temporary typhoon buildings. A fourth grade class and a first grade class are housed in the classrooms.

FRANKENSTEIN

With the dramatic leadership of Ms. Diana Felxi, Ms. Kathy Pagapular, and Ms. Rhonda Camacho, the San Vicente Elementary School was awarded the Best Director award during the Parade of Books.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The San Vicente Elementary School won first place win at the Parade of Books for their rendition of *Frankenstein*. Students in grades 1-6 participated in this thrilling tale.

Life & Style

Greg Kinnear, the amiable, accidental star

By HANK STUEVER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Is it okay to compare an actor to a dog, when you mean it in the best way?

Because there's something even more spaniel-like about Greg Kinnear these days, as he ages a little. Good dog? *Great* dog. (You know—the kind that intuits the doorbell before it rings but never barks his head off, and never demands attention?) With his crinkly brow and the graying scruff, Kinnear is still, at 45, almost about to be someone's idea of today's Jimmy Stewart—but most times he's just there for support.

That's why they use him for cute-husband parts ("Ghost Town"), or for integrity-compromised executives who have to check into forlorn Courtyard Marriotts ("Fast Food Nation"). They use him for parts like the football coach who keeps his cool in a desperate season (as Dick Vermeil in "Invincible") or for playing the unexpected boyfriend of the gal who's long since given up on men (as with Tina Fey in "Baby Mama"). Nice work, and he can get it.

On a recent Thursday afternoon, Kinnear and a film director/producer named Marc Abraham are making the rounds in D.C. for their new movie, "Flash of Genius." It stars (actually *stars* Kinnear as Robert Kearns, a Michigan engineering prof who invented the intermittent windshield-wiping device in his basement in the 1960s, and then spent almost two decades suing Ford and Chrysler for stealing his idea. Kearns finally won some $30 million.

Intriguing story, but tough sell.

"Bob Kearns (who died in 2005) is not a likable character, in the usual sense," Kinnear says, sitting a spell in the Georgetown Ritz-Carlton. "Yes, he eventually won some money. Great. But this is clearly not the message. ... The fight he had is all-consuming. He just couldn't find a bridge to compromise to anything around him—his children, his wife, his attorneys who are trying to help him. Everything is a struggle. I found myself wanting him to find satisfaction. I'm not sure this movie characterizes him as ever really finding it."

There is no getting around the fact that "Flash of Genius" is about a prideful and enigmatic nerd. Also, there's really a lot about windshield wipers in it ("Only of course it's not just about windshield wipers," Kinnear says). Finally, you never really root for the hero; you're glad for him, but it stops shorts of heroics.

AP

In this Sept. 7, 2008 file photo, actor Greg Kinnear from the film "Flash of Genius," poses for a portrait during the International Film Festival in Toronto.

In which case, clips of the movie probably are not destined to be shown at personal motivation seminars—the kind attended by guys who look just a little like Richard Hoover, the guy Kinnear played satirically in "Little Miss Sunshine," who preached his "Nine Steps" claptrap of self-help positivity.

"You could easily make that upbeat kind of movie out of 'Flash of Genius,' though, with the same story," Kinnear offers. "All you have to do is play the music LOUDER in certain moments, change a few looks from people in the (courtroom) scenes and really leave people much more energized, skipping out of the theater in triumph."

This is Kinnear's first serious, meaty starring part since he played Bob Crane—the murdered, sex-addicted star of "Hogan's Heroes" in 2002's creepy but intriguing "Auto Focus." To play Kearns, Kinnear put on 20 pounds, and quite a lot of polyester, and even more of a sense of gloom. He looks a little like William H. Macy in this movie.

It's Abraham's first time to direct, having spent his career producing movies as widely varied as "Bring It On" and "Children of Men." Abraham bought the film rights to a long 1993 New Yorker article about Kearns, and then spent years trying to raise money to make it. Studios were "meh" on the idea, especially with no star. "Flash of Genius" was made with investor money.

Kinnear saw the script for "Flash of Genius" and cold-called Abraham. The two met over coffee and Abraham felt Kinnear understood the story and character exactly. "I just planted my flag," Abraham says. "Kinnear's the guy. It has to be him. But I told him, 'You're too cute. ...' But you see him work, he just completely changes."

At the hotel, Kinnear plops down on a couch, wearing jeans and a dark green shirt that brings out a greenish hue in his eyes. He has that rare knack some movie stars just have, where you sit with him for a while and the whole time it feels like you're both waiting for the celebrity to walk in.

What seems like a very long time ago, Kinnear used to do what we do for a living—interview movie stars. He'd go to junkets, to film festivals, with a microphone and a camera guy.

First he did it for a cable outfit called Movie Time, in the late 1980s. He had moppy hair and neon sports jackets with the sleeves pushed up to his elbows. It was the lowest and cheapest form of prehistoric cable showbiz chatter. "You had Movie Time in your (cable) market? You actually saw it?" Kinnear asks.

He remembers getting a few minutes of sit-down with Charles Bronson: "We start the camera, and I'm sweating a lot, and I say, 'How are you, Mr. Bronson?' and he says, 'NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!' It was a lot of stuff like that. But it was a great education, it was like being in college."

Spokane author's book was published Monday

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—Sherry Jones' "The Jewel of Medina" reached bookstores Monday amid fears that the book about the Prophet Muhammad's child bride might lead to violence and threats. But the author said she had received no threats and was spending the day quietly, except for talking to reporters and being photographed.

"I'm going to a dinner party tonight, but it's not in my honor or anything," Jones said.

The celebrations will occur Friday, when she reads from her first novel in Spokane and is feted afterward.

Jones said she first saw a hard copy of her novel last week while in New York.

"I burst into tears," she said. "This has been my dream since the second grade."

It was a fight to get "The Jewel of Medina" into print, though.

The original publisher, Random House Inc., backed out because of fears it would spark violence because of its provocative topic. Beaufort Books recently agreed to publish the novel, then sped up the release date to Monday instead of Oct. 15 to short-circuit any possible violence.

Her novel is about Aisha, who according to tradition was 9 when she became the wife of the Prophet Muhammad, and later a political and military leader in her own right. Jones has already completed a sequel about Aisha's adult life that Beaufort plans to publish next year.

Publication in Britain remains in doubt after the arrest of three men in London in connection with a fire-bomb attack on the offices of publisher Gibson Square.

Jones said she had received no information from Gibson Square on whether it plans to proceed with publication. But she hoped that publication in the United States would finally show people that the book is not insulting to Muslims.

Paris exhibit showcases Picasso's masters

PARIS (AP)—When Velazquez painted a 17th century Spanish princess, he gave her wispy hair, pale skin and a cautious gaze. Three centuries later, Picasso turned the girl's face into a Cubist maze of green and purple, yet he captured her essence—that same mysterious gaze.

It's a Picasso paradox: The 20th century master was the ultimate convention-smashing rebel, and yet he was constantly looking to the work of masters from the past. A massive new exhibit at three Paris museums explores what he learned from other artists, including El Greco, Rembrandt, Goya, Delacroix, Cezanne, Manet and Gauguin.

The exhibit, which matches Picasso paintings alongside those of other masters, is one of France's most expensive art shows ever, racking up a cost $5.8 million for fees like insurance and transport for loaned works.

Museums from the Prado in Madrid to the Museum of Modern Art in New York lent their treasures to the show, which opens Wednesday. The Grand Palais is the main location, with parallel displays at the Louvre and Orsay museums.

Throughout his career, Picasso kept a collection of thousands of postcards and slides of art he admired. But the Spanish master wasn't interested in copying them explicitly.

Co-curator Anne Baldassari described Picasso as a "cannibal"—he ate up works and let them digest. Then he would produce something entirely his own.

"Among all the modern and avant-garde painters, he is the only one who so strongly took on the entire history of painting," said Baldassari, who co-curated the show with Marie-Laure Bernadac.

At the Grand Palais, several Cubist Picasso nudes are paired with works he was familiar with: Manet's "Olympia," showing a naked, reclining girl staring insolently at the viewer, and Goya's similar reclining girl, "Maja desnuda" (The Nude Maja). In those cases, the influence on Picasso seems subtle.

In other paintings, the connection is more direct. Picasso painted many Cubist versions of Velazquez's "Las Meninas" (The Maids of Honor), the 17th century masterpiece centered on a wary-looking child princess, Margarita Teresa of Spain.

Velazquez's painting uses a classical style and rich, dark tones, while Picasso splashed his similar compositions with bright blues, yellows and greens, turning the protagonists into abstract figures. "Las Meninas," held at the Prado, is one of the rare masterpieces that France was not able to secure on loan—a copy is projected on the wall instead.

Slick Rick among honorees at VH1 Hip Hop Honors

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP MUSIC WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Even though he's considered one of rap's all-time greats, when Slick Rick is asked about his most significant accomplishment, he doesn't mention having a platinum-selling record, classic hits like "Children's Story" or even his most recent accolade—getting saluted as a pioneer at the "VH1 Hip-Hop Honors."

Instead, he cites: owning a home.

"I guess my biggest accomplishment would be to purchase some real estate in the Bronx ... to have something to fall back on a rainy day," Slick Rick, who's now a landlord, said in a recent interview.

While that may seem rather mundane compared to his glamorous past, for Slick Rick—born Ricky Walters—achieving simple things is especially sweet considering the struggles he has endured for almost two decades. The eye-patch wearing, British-born rapper became a sensation in the early 1980s with songs like "La Di Da Di" that highlighted his suave, London-inflected delivery and his opulent dress. He was a top rapper when he was sent to prison in 1991 for wounding his cousin and another man.

He was released in 1994, fulfilled his probation requirements and resumed his rap career. However, in 2002, he was arrested again, this time for a 1997 Immigration and Naturalization Service warrant that had not been pursued earlier.

He spent a year and a half in jail before a judge allowed his release in 2003, saying that the Bureau of Immigration Appeals denied Walters' due process when it issued the warrant. But Homeland Security officials continued the case and he remained under threat of deportation, despite living in the United States since he was a child.

Earlier this year, New York Gov. David Paterson pardoned Slick Rick for his crime. While Paterson's pardon appears to have lifted the legal cloud over him, Slick Rick noted that he's still not in the clear.

"We're in a better position that we was before. We have a couple of hurdles that we have to go through, just clarifying everything with the immigration people," he said. "Other than that we're just on standby to see what the board does from this point forward."

While being a landlord is Slick Rick's occupation, he still considers rap his full-time career. He says he performs once or twice a week. At the "VH1 Hip-Hop Honors," which premieres 10 p.m. EDT Monday (and through the week) on the cable network but was taped Thursday, he performed one of his most popular songs, "Children's Story," while being feted by rappers like Busta Rhymes and Fabolous.

Other acts honored for their groundbreaking work were Too Short, Cypress Hill, De La Soul and Naughty By Nature. There was a special tribute featuring Scarface, Chuck D and Flavor Flav, Mos Def and singer Estelle for Isaac Hayes, one of rap's more sampled musicians. He died in August.

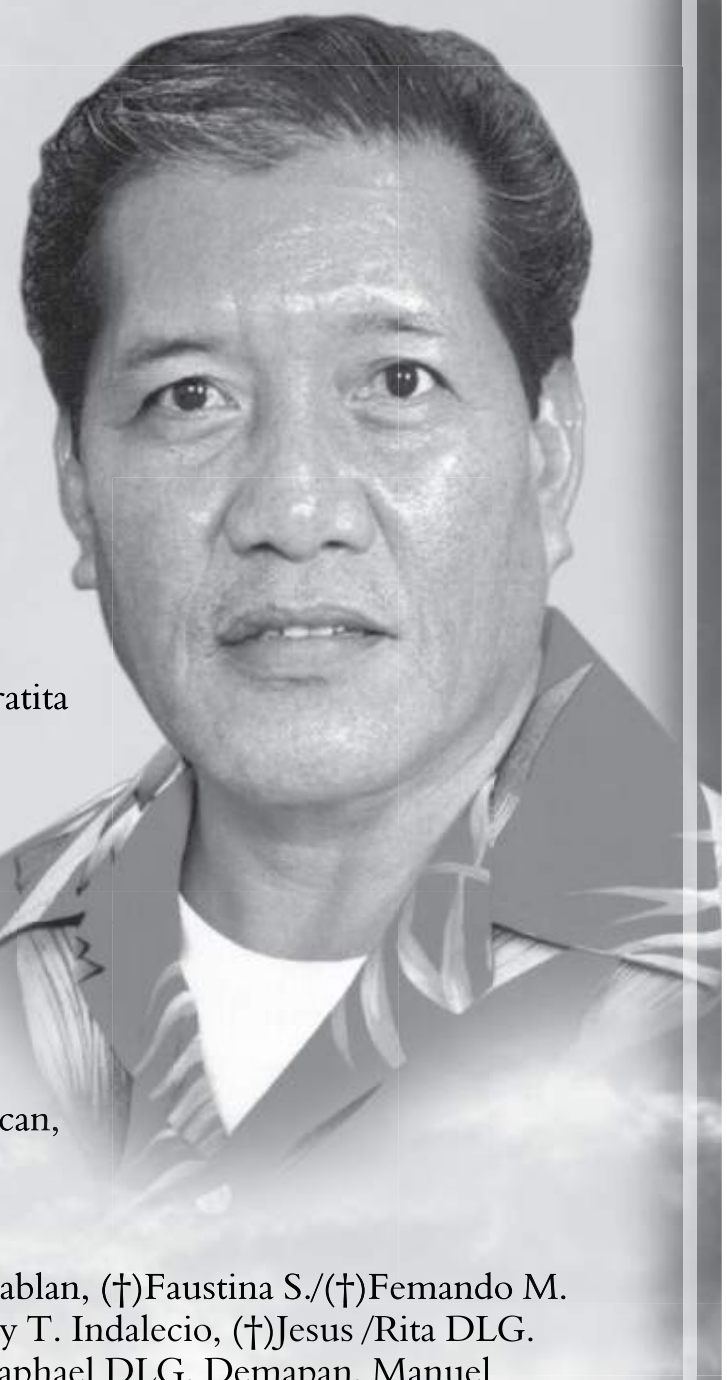
Slick Rick, who hasn't released an album of new material in 13 years, says he hopes to put out an album soon, as long as the circumstances are right.

"I've been through a lot of record labels and getting ripped off and end up owing the taxman money that you didn't earn, so it's been a long struggle," he said.

His legal woes have also been a long battle as well.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Martin Maratita Taisacan



Born on June 17, 1945
Was called to his eternal rest in the grace of our Lord on Wednesday October 1, 2008, at the CHC at the age of 63.

He is survived by his wife: ***Matilde Sablan Taisacan***

Sons/Daughters & Families:
Winefreda Taisacan Wilson/Blane C. (Blane Jr. & Austin)
Mark S. Taisacan/Sanjuana Maya (Kenneth John Manalo)
Elizabeth Taisacan Nena/Ronald I. (Meribel T. Nena)
Troy S. Taisacan
Jesse Jay S. Taisacan
Martina Matilde S. Taisacan

Predeceased by:
Parents: (†)Clementi Saralu Taisacan & (†)Juana Atalig Maratita
Parents In-Law: (†)Tomas Palacios Sablan,
(†)Isabel Mendiola Cabrera Sablan
Son: (†)Martin Jr. Sablan Taisacan

Brothers/Sisters and In-Laws:
Juan M. Taisacan/Merced Cabrera, Francisco M. / Juanita M. Taisacan, Cynthia T./Francisco San Nicolas, Maria T./Nicolas Omapas, (†)Mateo M./(†)Sabina Manglona Taisacan, Estanislao M./Balbina DLC. Taisacan, Lucia T./Aniceto M. Mundo, (†)Maria Magdalena M. Taisacan, and Atanacio Taitingfong.

Sisters/Brother In-Laws:
(†) Soledad S./(†)Francisco C. Basa, (†)Vicente /Maria M. Sablan, (†)Faustina S./(†)Femando M. Benavente, (†)Gregorio/(†)Victoria M. Sablan, Ana S./Henry T. Indalecio, (†)Jesus /Rita DLG. Sablan, Juana S./(†)Daniel T. Muna, Natividad C. Sablan/Raphael DLG. Demapan, Manuel C./Consalacion C. Sablan, (†)Rita S./Raphael Mettao, Maria S./Juana L. Ada, (†)Thomas (†) Francisca M. Sablan, (†)Maria DLR/Alfredo Gonzales, Isabel S./Melchor U. Maratita, Pedro/Ignacia M. Sablan, Margarita S./Jose Castro, Bernadita S./Isidro T. Cabrera, and (†)Joaquin/Grace C. Sablan.

He is additionally, survived by numerous nieces, nephews, godchildren, cousins and friends.

Mass is offered daily at San Antonio Church at 6:00PM,
followed immediately with the Holy Rosary.

On Thursday, October 09, 2008, his remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home in San Jose to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:30a.m followed by Responso & Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00a.m. followed by burial at Mr. Carmel Cemetary.

Your Thoughts & Prayers are greatly appreciated.

From the Family

Miley Cyrus celebrates Sweet 16 at Disneyland

Actress and singer Miley Cyrus performs at her "Sweet Sixteen" birthday party at Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif. on Sunday, Oct. 5, 2008.

AP

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Miley Cyrus' 16th birthday party was more boisterous than sweet.

Cyrus celebrated the hallmark birthday at an over-the-top Disneyland celebration Sunday—even though she doesn't actually turn 16 until Nov. 23. The theme park was closed for the supersized soiree, which included a four-song performance by the teen queen and a fireworks display above Sleeping Beauty Castle and 16 giant inflatable candles.

"Miley is really hard to surprise," her father Billy Ray Cyrus said at the event.

Organizers estimated over 5,000 people attended the special party, which cost $250 a ticket. On the event's purple carpet—that's Cyrus' favorite color—the star of the Disney Channel's "Hannah Montana" bragged that her parents bought her a new puppy for her birthday. What else does Cyrus want for her birthday? A new car? Perhaps a later curfew?

"My parents shut down Disneyland for me, so I'm good for a while," Cyrus said.

Cyrus' father opened up for his daughter with a few of his own songs, including "Achy Breaky Heart." His daughter donned a white ruffled skirt and jersey-like vest with "Sweet 16" printed on the back for her truncated concert. At one point, Cyrus boarded a boat in the park's Rivers of America and crooned such tunes as "Breakout" and "G.N.O."

Throughout the evening, several popular attractions, such as Big Thunder Mountain and Pirates of the Caribbean, remained open to partygoers. Additional activities, like receiving a "Hannah Montana" makeover and playing the upcoming Disney Interactive Studios rhythm video game "Ultimate Band," were also made available to attendees.

Partygoers ogled celebrities roaming around the park throughout the party. David Archuleta and his entourage skipped the line to ride Space Mountain. Jennie Garth and her family ducked out before the fireworks display capping the celebration. Other stars in attendance included Steve Carell, Cindy Crawford, Tyra Banks, Jennifer Love Hewitt, Heather Locklear and Demi Lovato.

Disney used the event to promote their upcoming "What Will You Celebrate?" marketing initiative, which encourages tourists to take "celebration vacations" with their families. Beginning in 2009, guests at Disneyland and Walt Disney World in Florida can gain free theme park admission on their birthday with a valid ID and proof of birth date.

Over at Disney's California Adventure, Disneyland's sister theme park, an entirely different celebration was occurring during the Sweet 16 event: the 11th annual Gay Days Anaheim, an unofficial gathering of gays and lesbians at the Disneyland Resort. Event producer Jeffrey Epstein said Cyrus' affair didn't conflict with Gay Days Anaheim.

"We're happy to share our big weekend with Miley," said Epstein. "While it may be a small world after all, we think it's big enough for both groups to have a blast."

Misty May-Treanor out of 'Dancing with the Stars'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Misty May-Treanor is too hurt to keep dancing.

The 31-year-old "Dancing with the Stars" contestant and Olympic gold medalist volleyball player appeared at the conclusion of Monday's show on crutches and with a cast on her left leg to announce that she's out of the popular ABC dancing competition after injuring herself while rehearsing Friday.

"I heard a pop," said May-Treanor, who was practicing the jive on the show's ballroom set when she ruptured her left Achilles tendon. "I was doing the Lindy Hop. I thought I flew out of control and hit the judges' stairs, or it felt like I got hit in the back with a baseball bat. Then, I just couldn't put weight on it."

May-Treanor, who had a previous knee injury from playing volleyball, and her professional partner, Maksim Chmerkovskiy, had been a formidable dancing duo, scoring a 21 out of 30 for their previous foxtrot, mambo and paso double routines. Co-host Samantha Harris said what May-Treanor's early exit means for the competition would be revealed on Tuesday's show.

"Poor thing," said chef Rocco DiSpirito, a fellow celebrity contestant who was by May-Treanor's side after she injured herself Friday. "She was dancing so beautifully. She looked so cute. And then she hurt herself. We didn't realize to what extent. We just tried to comfort her the best we could."

It's not the first injury sustained by a competitor this season. Comedian Jeffrey Ross, who was eliminated the first week, suffered a scratched cornea after his partner Edyta Sliwinska accidentally poked him. Professional dancer Karina Smirnoff, who's partnered with chef Rocco DiSpirito, also sprained her ankle the first week. Both continued to compete despite their injuries.

AP

In this image released by ABC, volleyball player Misty May-Treanor, left, and her partner Maksim Chmerkovskiy perform on the ABC celebrity dance competition, "Dancing With The Stars," Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008 in Los Angeles.

Top court stays out of DVR patent fight

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court refused Monday to disturb a $74 million judgment against Dish Network Corp. for violating a patent held by TiVo Inc. involving digital video recorders.

Without comment, the justices declined to consider Englewood, Colo.-based Dish's appeal.

In January, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit agreed with a lower court that digital video recorders distributed by Dish, formerly known as EchoStar Communications Corp., violated the software elements of Alviso,Calif.-based TiVo's patent. The ruling overturned the lower court's finding that Dish also infringed on the patent's hardware elements.

TiVo issued a statement saying it was "extremely pleased" with the Supreme Court's decision and said company lawyers would press for Dish to pay financial damages.

TiVo sued in 2004, alleging that EchoStar, a satellite broadcaster, infringed on TiVo's patented technology that allows viewers to record one program while watching another. EchoStar Communications changed its name to Dish in late 2007.

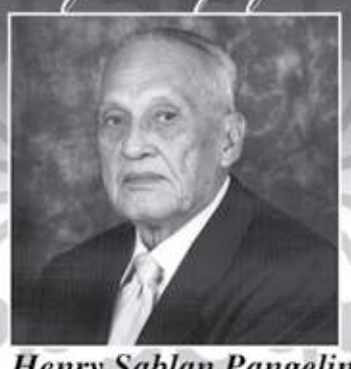
TiVo pioneered digital video recorders that allow viewers to pause, rewind and fast forward live television shows.

The lower court had ordered Dish to shut down the 3 million digital video recorders used by its customers because they use TiVo's technology, but that order was put on hold pending appeal.

JOINT DEATH ANIVERSARY

We, the family of the late,

Monica Koyama (Hideko) Pangelinan
30th Anniversary



Henry Sablan Pangelinan
1st Anniversary

Damiana Koyama Pangelinan
47th Anniversary

Cordially invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the 1st, 30th and 47th anniversary of their passage into eternal life. Daily masses are being offered at 6:00 a.m. at San Jose Church starting Oct. 2, 2008 to Oct. 10, 2008. Breakfast will be served at the Social Hall after the mass on the last day.

Please join us as we remember them in our prayers.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase
From the Children & Family

AFI will honor Michael Douglas

HOLLYWOOD—Actor-producer Michael Douglas has been chosen to receive the American Film Institute's Life Achievement Award, 18 years after the same honor was bestowed on his father, Kirk Douglas.

Douglas, 64, who won an Oscar for "Wall Street" and also starred in "Fatal Attraction," "Romancing the Stone," "Basic Instinct," "The China Syndrome" and "Wonder Boys," will receive the award at a ceremony in Los Angeles on June 11.

"Michael Douglas is the rightful heir to the throne of the royal family of American film," Howard Stringer, chair of the AFI board of trustees, said Monday in making the announcement. He praised Douglas as both an actor and as the producer of films including "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "Starman" and "Face/Off." ***(Los Angeles Times)***

Actor Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta Jones arrive at the United Nations Association Global Leadership Awards Gala at The Waldorf Astoria in New York on Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2008.

AP

R. Kelly seeks $3.4M from tour promoter

LOS ANGELES (AP)—R. Kelly has won a $3.4 million award against his former tour promoter and is asking a Los Angeles judge to help him collect.

R. Kelly Touring, which represents the singer, filed court documents on Monday seeking a judge's confirmation of the award an arbitrator granted against Georgia-based Rowe Entertainment last month.

Kelly's company claimed that Rowe Entertainment and owner Leonard Rowe failed to pay him in full for shows scheduled for late last year and early 2008. An arbitrator agreed with Kelly's claims. Documents show Rowe disputed the arbitration, but did not offer any defense during a recent hearing.

R. Kelly

An after-hours phone message left for Rowe's attorney in Atlanta was not returned Monday.

Kelly won three Grammys in 1997 for the song "I Believe I Can Fly," but is known for his sexually charged music. He was acquitted earlier this year of child pornography charges and is scheduled to release a new album before year's end.

Jimmy Kimmel returns as American Music Awards host

AP

In an April 3, 2008 file photo Jimmy Kimmel poses on the press line at the Jimmy Kimmel Show 1000th Episode Party. Kimmel is slated to host the American Music Awards on Nov. 23, 2008.

NEW YORK (AP)—Jimmy Kimmel is coming back to provide more laughs for the American Music Awards.

The comedian and talk show host is slated to host the annual event on Nov. 23 live from Los Angeles on ABC. Pink and the Jonas Brothers are among those scheduled to perform.

Kimmel has hosted the American Music Awards four previous times.

In a statement, Orly Adelson, president of Dick Clark Productions, the show's producer, called Kimmel "a masterful host with incredible spontaneity and wit; audiences can expect a great night."

Kimmel's response? "I agree with Orly completely."

The American Music Awards are voted on by fans through online voting.

Ex-'Simpsons' writer wins $5,000 prize

NEW YORK (AP)—Larry Doyle, a former TV writer-producer for "The Simpsons," was named the winner Monday of this year's Thurber Prize for American Humor. He was cited for the novel "I Love You, Beth Cooper."

"Clearly Larry Doyle was not the BMOC (Big Man On Campus)," Thurber judge Firoozeh Dumas said in a statement. "Had Larry been cool, he could have never written `I Love You, Beth Cooper,' a hilarious yet painfully accurate account of high school in all its pimply glory."

Doyle will receive $5,000. The two other finalists were Patricia Marx, for the novel "Him Her Him Again The End of Him," and Simon Rich for "Ant Farm," an essay collection.

The Thurber Prize, named for author-illustrator James Thurber, was founded in 1996.

Indy sequel has Lucas in think mode

HOLLYWOOD—Actor Harrison Ford said Friday that momentum is building for a fifth movie in the "Indiana Jones" franchise and that George Lucas is already cooking up a suitable plot for a heroic senior citizen with a penchant for whips and fedoras.

"It's crazy but great," Harrison, 66, said in an interview. "George is in think mode right now."

"Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" grossed $318 million in the U.S. and $770 million worldwide and is expected to be a powerhouse seller on DVD and Blu-Ray when it arrives in stores on Oct. 14.

Matthew Broderick returns to Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—Matthew Broderick will return to Broadway next spring in a revival of "The Philanthropist," a comedy by English playwright Christopher Hampton.

The Roundabout Theatre Company production, directed by David Grindley, will open April 26, 2009, at the American Airlines Theatre, Todd Haimes, the Roundabout's artistic director, announced Monday. It will begin preview performances April 10.

Broderick, in his first Broadway appearance since the 2005 revival of "The Odd Couple," portrays Philip, an insular college professor. Other casting will be announced.

"The Philanthropist" had a 64-performance run on Broadway in 1971 in a production that featured Alec McCowen, Jane Asher and Victor Spinetti.

Hard-working freshman is adrift in a sea of partyers

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, "Christie," just started her freshman year in college. She's a little overwhelmed and trying to adjust. She is smart, focused and mature.

Christie's biggest problem is it seems that all the other students in her dorm want to do is party. They buy alcohol with fake IDs and sneak it in.

Christie has told the others that she's not a partyer, and has been focusing on her work while her roommate and suitemates drink and miss classes. This makes my daughter not only unhappy, but also feel isolated. I talk to her every day to reassure her that she will find "her" group of friends. Is there anything else I could advise?

CHRISTIE'S MOM

DEAR MOM: Christie's problem will eventually resolve itself because students who spend their time drinking, partying and cutting class often find themselves kicked out of school. But I'd rather see her do something to help herself in the near term.

Suggest to your daughter that she talk with the resident assistant in her dorm about finding other, more serious students with whom she can room. She should also ask her professors if they know of any study groups she can join.

Christie sounds like a real winner. She should not feel like an oddball for wanting to make the most of her college education.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was a lonely widow for many years until I met "Carl." We married two years ago, but separated after two weeks.

Afterward, my daughter, "Gail," and her husband, "Don," and their two kids lived with me for 18 months. I was the only one working. Gail helped a little around the house, but Don wouldn't even mow the grass.

During that time I had two heart attacks and an angioplasty. Two weeks before my first heart attack, Gail and I had a terrible fight, and the police were called.

When Carl heard about the heart attack (I sent him a copy of the bill), he called to check on me. Don told him it was "nothing." He said I made it all up, and I was "fine." My doctor said if I hadn't come in during the second heart attack and had the angioplasty, I would not have survived.

A month after the angioplasty, Gail, Don and I had another terrible fight. Gail punched me several times, and I hit her back at least twice. The police made them move out that same night. I don't regret them leaving. They acted like my house belonged to them and I was their slave. I do miss my grandchildren, though.

Carl and I have reconciled, and now we realize that Don went out of his way to create problems between us. I have not spoken to him or my daughter since. My sons, my friends and my neighbors have all told me they are relieved the two of them are gone.

What is your opinion of a 25-year-old daughter who would hit her mother because her mother wanted her own life?

RELIEVED IN KANSAS

DEAR RELIEVED: Several things occur to me. What you have described is blatant elder abuse. But I wonder where your daughter learned that violence was acceptable behavior. Frankly, I am concerned for her children's safety.

For your own safety, do not allow yourself to be lured into Gail's proximity, because she has already shown she will damage you physically, emotionally and financially. Because you can't fix what's wrong with your daughter, it's important to keep your distance.

■ ■ ■ ■

TO MY JEWISH READERS: Sundown marks the beginning of Yom Kippur, the day of atonement. During this 24-hour period, observant Jewish people fast, engage in reflection and prayer, and formally repent for any sin that might have been committed during the previous Hebrew year. To all of you—may your fast be an easy one.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, OUR LIVES ARE PRETTY NICE.
A LOT OF KIDS DON'T HAVE AS GOOD OF A HOME LIFE AS WE DO. WE REALLY CAN'T COMPLAIN.
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10/8
WHICH ISN'T TO SAY WE SHOULD GO HOME YET.
WHEN DO YOU THINK THEY'LL SEE THE CAR WINDSHIELD?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

JON, THIS RESTAURANT WE'RE GOING TO... IS IT FANCY?
SORT OF
Text GARFIELD to 22646 US ONLY
JIM DAVIS 10-8
SHOULD I WEAR MY LITTLE BLACK DRESS?
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...HELLO?
HE SAYS YES
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DADDY, CLAYTON SAID YOU GAVE HIM AN ADVANCE ON HIS ALLOWANCE. CAN I HAVE ONE ON MINE, TOO, PLEASE?
DO I LOOK LIKE A BANK?
ONE THAT HANDS OUT UNSECURED LOANS, YES.
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10/8

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

MY FRIENDS, THE TIME IS NOW TO SWITCH TO CERAMIC TILE IN THIS AUGUST CHAMBER.
©2008 Glenn McCoy/dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
HA! THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE A TOOL FOR "BIG TILE"! HARDWOOD IS WHAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT.
GLENN McCOY
10-8
SENATE FLOOR DEBATES ON C-SPAN.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Cows' chaws
5 Scenery chewer
8 Cinematographer Nykvist
12 Sandwich cookie
13 Longoria or Mendes
14 Out of kilter
15 Music lover's buy
17 Egyptian bird
18 Bizarre
19 Solvent derived from petroleum
21 Government overthrow
24 Exploit
25 Lotion additive
28 Colorado ski mecca
30 Pair
33 Moo goo gai pan pan
34 Tubular pasta
35 Once around the track
36 And so on (Abbr.)
37 Secular
38 Crooked
39 Eventual aves
41 Burn somewhat
43 Chefs' garb
46 It becomes igneous rock
50 Parliament title
51 Swanson product
54 Drench
55 Rowing need
56 It can be raw
57 Earthenware pot
58 Thickness
59 Mop

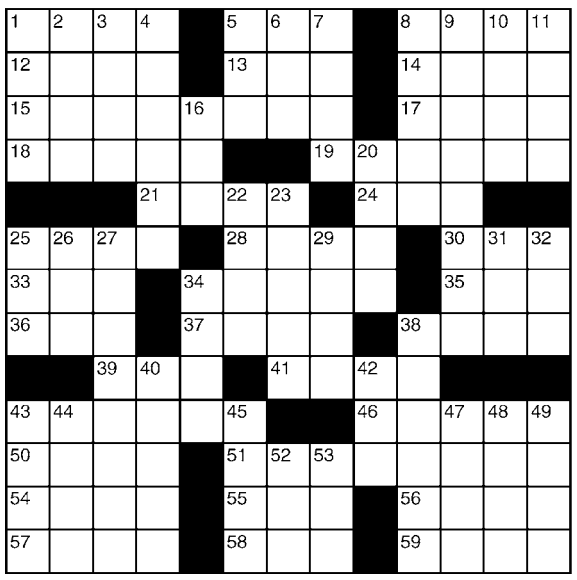
DOWN

1 Couturier Chanel
2 Language of Pakistan
3 Credit card result
4 Origin
5 Coop dweller
6 "Hail, Caesar!"
7 "You Bet Your Life" host
8 "Red — in the Sunset"
9 Rabbit's cousin?
10 Ms. Brockovich
11 Wall St. initials
16 Old Olds
20 Christmas
22 Eye layer
23 "War of the Worlds" aftermath
25 Idolater's emotion
26 Parcel of land
27 Gunfight site
29 Small measure
31 Pale
32 Make up your mind
34 Blueprint
38 Cattle markings
40 Stinger ingredient
42 Parisian pal
43 As well
44 Combine resources
45 Cease
47 Chew persistently
48 Transcending (Pref.)
49 Bedouin
52 Actor Kilmer
53 Parched

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	P	A	M		W	O	K		H	I	S	S
A	R	I	A		I	R	E		E	C	H	O
C	O	L	D	P	L	A	Y		R	O	A	N
			C	A	D		B	R	A	N	D	Y
S	T	E	A	D		C	O	A	L			
P	U	L	P		P	L	A	Y	D	E	A	D
E	B	B		C	R	O	R	E		G	O	O
D	E	A	D	H	E	A	D		M	A	N	E
			W	E	A	K		C	I	D	E	R
F	E	R	E	N	C		C	O	N			
E	V	I	L		H	E	A	D	C	O	L	D
T	E	L	L		E	R	R		E	V	E	N
A	R	E	S		R	A	T		D	A	T	A

Yesterday's answer 10-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nick Cannon, 28; Matt Damon, 38; Sigourney Weaver, 59; Chevy Chase, 65

Happy Birthday: Take control and you can put the things that have been hovering over you the past few years to rest. If you continue to wait for someone else to do the dirty work, it will turn out to be a disappointing year. You have what it takes to get what you want if you believe in your abilities and put fear of failure aside. Your numbers are 8, 12, 16, 19, 28, 39, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't act on impulse or alone. A partnership will help you gain momentum and can be crucial in any choice you are being asked to make. Don't let your emotions sway your opinions or decisions. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Make a statement that will give you an edge and set you apart from everyone else. Your past experience and the skills you've perfected will be all you need as backup. You can count on your ability to make things happen. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Everything will fall into place and sudden but unexpected changes will be a pleasant surprise. A business or pleasure trip will help ease your mind about things that have been bothering you lately. You will command attention with your verbal expertise. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't let negativity get the better of you. Enjoy the moment by spending time with someone you love. Take action and be proud of your accomplishments and ability to follow through. Socialize, network and update your look. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Be prepared to put money behind your ideas. Move ahead alone, if necessary. Once you show everyone how your idea can work, there will be a change of attitude. Your straight talk and production will pay off. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Keep moving. The less idle time you have, the better. Develop a skill or update up your wardrobe or image. Don't be afraid to let go of the people in your life who are dragging you down. It's time for upbeat, positive peers. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll get caught in the middle of a mess if you take situations or people for granted. Someone will complain and make a fuss if you don't live up to your promises. It will be hard to please everyone so do as much as you can on your own. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Set up a game plan and stick to it if you want to succeed. Your future is in your hands. Perfection is a work in progress, so prepare to launch even if things aren't perfect or 100 percent finished. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Say what you mean and you will gain respect among your peers. Precision, courage and diplomacy will win you favors. Be honest about what you can offer—don't stretch the truth about your knowledge or skills. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't get drawn into someone else's emotional madness. Keep a clear head and refrain from voicing your opinion. Arguments will leave you at odds about what to do next. Focus on your own projects and plans. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Start the ball rolling by approaching someone who suits your needs regarding a money matter or business venture. Be straightforward and give whoever you are trying to interest the pros and cons so he or she can contribute what's required. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Secrets will lead to questions and misunderstandings. Be open about your undertakings so there are no surprises. Remain conservative in your actions as well as your contributions. A renewed partnership is an alternative. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are changeable, emotionally sensitive and passionate about what you do. You are open, well-meaning, generous and intense.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1	2	7	3	5			
	3		6			2		
5				1			8	
2				7			6	
3	6	1	4	8			7	
	9	7	1				2	
							3	
							4	
				2	1	6	5	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	9	7	8	6	3	5	4	1
3	5	4	2	7	1	9	6	8
6	1	8	4	9	5	3	2	7
1	2	5	9	8	6	4	7	3
8	4	3	7	1	2	6	9	5
7	6	9	5	3	4	1	8	2
4	8	6	3	5	7	2	1	9
5	7	1	6	2	9	8	3	4
9	3	2	1	4	8	7	5	6

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BOTOX THERAPY **Solution: 5 letters**

A	E	V	I	T	C	E	F	F	E	U	S	S	I	T
K	C	L	E	P	R	O	T	E	I	N	S	E	R	N
C	H	E	B	L	S	E	H	N	F	S	C	A	O	A
E	I	S	T	A	I	I	V	S	W	L	H	S	T	X
N	N	T	L	Y	E	T	G	I	I	O	U	Y	C	A
O	E	A	R	L	L	C	A	N	T	N	R	I	O	L
N	C	B	E	(F)	E	C	I	S	S	A	I	F	D	E
S	N	L	M	(A)	O	C	H	T	R	M	L	M	T	R
U	A	I	E	(C)	S	S	N	O	O	E	E	I	I	U
R	R	S	D	(E)	E	E	P	U	L	N	V	R	Z	D
G	A	H	Y	S	I	M	T	I	L	I	P	S	U	E
I	E	E	O	T	E	H	F	C	H	A	N	G	E	C
C	P	D	A	T	S	T	M	U	S	C	L	E	S	O
A	P	P	O	I	N	T	M	E	N	T	F	O	S	R
L	A	R	U	T	A	N	A	I	C	I	S	Y	H	P

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Acetylcholine, Appearance, Appointment, Cells, Change, Chin, Clinic, Cure, Diminish, Doctor, Doses, Easy, Effective, Established, Eyes, Face, Fluid, Frown, Lift, Lips, Mouth, Muscles, Natural, Neck, Nonsurgical, Noticeable, Patient, Physician, Procedure, Proteins, Relaxant, Remedy, Revitalize, Signs, Soft, Temporary, Tissue, Versatile

Yesterday's Answer: Confession

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/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
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There is still hope for nonimmigrant statu
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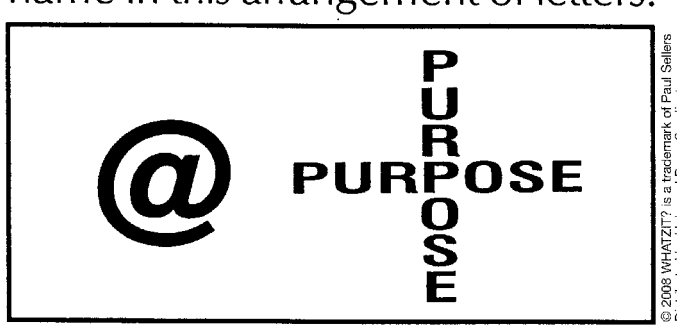

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, vs. HENRY O. OGO, Defendant. — CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-436 — NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuan to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 16, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 345 R 321, situated in SINAPALO I, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 950 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 07 dated July 1, 1984, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 31, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 15th day of September, 2008.

/s/ **MICHAEL A. WHITE**
Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, vs. VICENTE C. AYUYU, Defendant. — CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-486 — NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuan to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 11, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 005 I 487, situated in Koblerville, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,087 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 005 1 08, the original of whic was registered on September 30, 1983, as Document No. 18434, at the Land Registry, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 31, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

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DATED, this 15th day of September, 2008.

/s/ **MICHAEL A. WHITE**
Auctioneer

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Classified Ads

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Red Sox beat Angels, move on to ALCS and Rays

AP

Boston Red Sox's Jason Bay dives into home for the game-winning run in front of Los Angeles Angels catcher Mike Napoli in Game 4 of baseball's American League division series in Boston, Monday, Oct. 6, 2008.

BOSTON (AP)—The Boston Red Sox brushed aside the 100-win Angels in four games, dismissing their best-in-baseball regular season as last month's news.

When it turns to October, no one dominates like Boston.

Jason Bay scored with a headfirst slide on Jed Lowrie's two-out single in the ninth inning and the defending World Series champions took advantage of a botched suicide squeeze, beating Los Angeles 3-2 Monday night to win their first-round playoff series in four games.

Boston, which also won it all in 2004, will have a chance at a third title in five years if it can get past the Rays in the best-of-seven AL championship series that starts Friday night at Tampa Bay.

"That's what this team is about, especially the last few years," said Lowrie, a rookie who was called up as a midseason replacement when shortstop Julio Lugo was injured. "It's October, they've won a lot of games, and to be a part of that is awesome."

The AL's youngest team, Tampa Bay had never finished better than last in the division and posted the worst record in baseball last year while Boston, one of the league's charter members, was winning its seventh championship. But in just 11 years, the Rays and Red Sox have become fierce rivals, with the latest bench-clearing brawl coming at Fenway Park in June.

"I can't wait to get it going," pitcher Josh Beckett said. "But we've got a few days off to enjoy this."

Los Angeles was able to force the series to a fourth game with an extra-inning victory Sunday night that snapped an 11-game playoff losing streak against Boston.

As it turned out, that gave the Angels less than 24 extra hours.

"Those guys have certainly, in the last three series that we've been involved with them, they've beaten us," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "I thought we played much better this series than going back to '04 or '07 against them. It's naturally disappointing. But we're going to have to keep trying to get better. That's all we can do."

Jon Lester held the Angels to four hits in seven shutout innings but lost his chance at a second victory in the series when they scored twice in the eighth to tie it 2-all. Los Angeles had a chance to go ahead in the ninth before Erick Aybar, whose 12th-inning single was the winner in Game 3, missed on a squeeze attempt.

In the bottom half, Bay lofted a fly ball down the right-field line that Reggie Willits pursued and dove for before it one-hopped into the stands for a ground-rule double. First baseman Mark Teixeira made a diving catch of Mark Kotsay's line drive for the second out.

Again, it was only a temporary save.

Lowrie grounded a single into right, and Bay raced around third and slid headfirst ahead of the throw while his teammates poured out of the dugout to celebrate.

It's been a common sight in Boston, but one Bay had never taken part in before he was acquired from Pittsburgh when the Red Sox unloaded Manny Ramirez at the July 31 trade deadline.

"The only thing I'm thinking is, 'Get a good jump and don't fall down around third,'" Bay said. "I can't imagine that it'll get more intense than this, but it will."

Manny Delcarmen got two outs in the ninth for the win, squelching the Angels' chances to take the lead by getting Aybar to whiff on a bunt try with one out and a runner on third. Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek, whose passed ball helped Los Angeles tie the game in the eighth, pursued pinch-runner Willits back toward third and made the diving tag a step before the bag.

Varitek lost the ball as he hit the ground, but third base umpire Tim Welke ruled that he had already applied the tag. Scioscia argued, but replays showed that the out was recorded before the ball came loose.

Scot Shields took the loss, allowing two hits and a run while striking out three in 1 2-3 innings.

"We've got a lot of guys that are frustrated right now," Scioscia said. "Can't tell you how proud we are of the way our guys played through the whole summer, and it's unfortunate the way this series turned out."

Lester and John Lackey, who also faced each other in Boston's Game 1 victory, matched scoreless innings through four before Kotsay and Varitek singled and Dustin Pedroia doubled them both in. An AL MVP candidate who was hitless in his first 15 at-bats of the playoffs, Pedroia pulled up one step before second base to bang his hands together in celebration.

But the Angels tied it in the eighth when Teixeira drew a two-out walk from Hideki Okajima, then Justin Masterson walked Vladimir Guerrero. The runners moved up as Masterson and Varitek got crossed up on a passed ball, which proved costly when they scored on Torii Hunter's single to right.

Pedroia's confidence never wavered during the slump, as he showed when he popped out of the dugout for pregame batting practice and said, "You can't keep a good man down."

Or a good team.

The Red Sox may have missed a chance to sweep with Sunday's 5-4, 12-inning loss, but they saved themselves a trip back to Anaheim, Calif., for a winner-take-all Game 5.

Rays 6, White Sox 2

At Chicago, they rushed toward the mound, these remarkable Rays, and immediately formed a circle. Jumping together like fraternity brothers, they resembled party regulars in the postseason.

Worst in the majors last year, Tampa Bay will play for a spot in the World Series.

"It means everything. We've been at the bottom of the barrel for so long," B.J. Upton said Monday after homering twice in a 6-2 win over Chicago that clinched their AL playoff. "I think there was a point in time where people didn't even know who we were."

They do now, for sure.

Andy Sonnanstine pitched 5 2-3 solid innings and manager Joe Maddon's surprising Rays won 3-1 in the best-of-five series—their first trip to the postseason. Next up, they'll host wild-card Boston in Game 1 of the AL championship series Friday night.

Ray-markable!

"We feel like we belong and it's showing right now," Upton said.

They want more, too. So why stop now?

"Like Carlos (Pena) said, we're kind of a fraternity. And we stick together at all times no matter what happens," Upton said. "As long as we keep that attitude and continue playing as a team, and doing the little things to win, I don't think there's any reason why we can't win this whole thing."

After staving off elimination several times and winning a tiebreaker for the AL Central title, the White Sox were finally knocked out.

The loss dashed Chicago's hope for a championship—days ago, local fans were thinking the Cubs and White Sox might meet in a Windy City Classic. But the Cubs got swept by the Dodgers and now both teams are done.

"They played better than us. There's no doubt. They pitched better. They execute better. They got big hits," White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said. "They really did a tremendous job."

Upton, the game's second batter, homered to left-center to put the Rays ahead. He went deep again in the third, driving a full-count pitch from Gavin Floyd to center, and the confident Rays had a two-run cushion.

Tampa Bay, which never won more than 70 games during its 10 previous seasons, went from 96 losses last year to 97 wins and passed the big-spending Red Sox and New York Yankees in the AL East.

"It's good for baseball for a team like Tampa to win," White Sox owner Jerry Reinsdorf said. "It's too bad they had to beat us, but it's good for the game."

No longer bedeviled, the Rays won all year with young talent and improved pitching. Sonnanstine, who pitched a three-hit shutout against the White Sox at Tropicana Field in April, reversed a late-season slide that saw him go winless in his final seven starts.

He allowed two runs and three hits before J.P Howell relieved. Grant Balfour completed the four-hitter, striking out midseason addition Ken Griffey Jr. to end it.

"Obviously, this is an incredible accomplishment and we're going to take tonight and really enjoy it, but when you are mired in the day-to-day it's hard to step back and appreciate what we've accomplished this year," Rays general manager Andrew Friedman said. "We're focused on having two more celebrations."

Upton, who hit nine homers in 531 at-bats during the regular season, also homered in Sunday's 5-3 loss. Benched by Maddon during the season for not hustling, the talented 24-year-old's power display came against a team that relied on homers all year and led the majors in long balls.

"B.J.'s special," Maddon said. "He's very capable of those types of games."

Tampa Bay increased the lead to 4-0 in the fourth when Carl Crawford walked and scored as veteran Cliff Floyd, a Chicago native, doubled to left. Dioner Navarro followed with an RBI single to finish Floyd.

Paul Konerko hit a solo homer for the White Sox in the bottom half and the white towel-waving crowd dressed in black had a reason to get excited. But Tampa Bay struck right back in the fifth against Clayton Richard as Akinori Iwamura singled and scored on Pena's single that made it 5-1.

Jermaine Dye hit a solo home run in the sixth to finish Sonnanstine.

"Hats off to him," Upton said. "He threw a great game when we needed it."

Tampa Bay kept adding on and Pena hit his second RBI single in the seventh—after the White Sox intentionally walked Upton. Guillen, apparently upset when a close pitch from Matt Thornton to Pena was called a ball, had a conversation with plate umpire Jeff Kellogg as he headed back to the dugout after a trip to the mound.

The White Sox defeated Cleveland on the final Sunday of the season to get to a makeup game with Detroit the following day. They beat the Tigers and then Minnesota, 1-0.

After losing the first two games of this series at Tropicana Field despite leading in both, the White Sox came back home to win Sunday. And they were hoping for another three-game winning streak—but the Rays were too good.

"When you have to play playoff baseball the last two weeks of the regular season, it's just so hard to get over that first hump," Konerko said. "We just ran out of gas."

And now Maddon, who likes fashionable eye wear, fine wines, good books and inspirational slogans, has pushed a decade-long loser onto the doorstep of a pennant.

"We all came together and said we're going to play team ball," Upton said. "That's what we do, day in and day out."

Earlier in the week, Maddon spotted some fans on his way to U.S. Cellular Field wearing "retro Devil Rays stuff." He'll be looking for even more signs of the team's new popularity when he honeymoons in Europe next month.

"My goal is to see someone walking around either Rome or, you know, Barcelona or somewhere with Rays gear on," he added, promising to photograph it.

Vikings escape New Orleans with victory

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The New Orleans Saints committed so many blunders, not even Reggie Bush's record-tying two punt returns for touchdowns could make up for them in a 30-27 loss to the Minnesota Vikings on Monday night.

Gus Frerotte passed for 222 yards and a game-tying touchdown to Bernard Berrian with 7:10 to play, and Ryan Longwell's 30-yard field goal with 13 seconds left gave the Vikings the comeback win.

"This is as good a win as it gets," Vikings coach Brad Childress said. "I don't know if I've ever been involved in one that went that way."

Longwell's game-winning kick was set up by a pass interference call on a long throw to Berrian, who was run into before the ball came down despite being double-covered. That was only the latest gaffe by New Orleans.

Martin Gramatica, who had a field goal blocked and returned 59 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter, missed a 46-yarder that could have given the Saints (2-3) a lead with two minutes to go.

Soon after, Minnesota (2-3) was celebrating Longwell's winning kick.

AP

Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Bernard Berrian (87) is sandwiched by New Orleans Saints defenders Jason David (42) and Kevin Kaesviharn (43) in the second half of an NFL football game in New Orleans, Monday, Oct. 6, 2008.

New Orleans committed four turnovers, dropped several passes and was called for 11 penalties for 102 yards. New Orleans also tried to catch the Vikings off guard with an onside kick, but Minnesota recovered, setting up Longwell's 53-yard field goal, which tied his season long.

"It's probably one of the weirdest games I've ever been involved in," Saints quarterback Drew Brees said. "Just the way this thing kind of went back and forth. I'm trying to digest it all right now and in the end it's a loss. That's extremely disappointing, especially when once again we have a chance to win it at the end."

The loss was reminiscent to a 34-32 setback at Denver in Week 3, when Gramatica missed a 43-yard field goal that could have put the Saints ahead with about two minutes to go.

With the Saints trailing 20-10 late in the third quarter, Bush had his first touchdown return for 71 yards, slipping a tackle early and accelerating past a bone-jarring block at midfield by Jo-Lonn Dunbar.

Bush nearly broke another punt return, but tripped and fell at the Minnesota 49. Still, New Orleans only needed one first down to set up Gramatica's 53-yard field goal to tie it.

The Vikings kicked to Bush again and paid for it. Bush caught the kick on the run and burst between the only defenders who really had a shot at him before cutting outside into the open field for a 64-yard score.

"Great blocking by my teammates," Bush said. "It was obviously a huge play at a time of need. It would have been even sweeter if we had won this game."

Bush was 12th player in NFL history to return two punts for TDs in a game. The last do it was Eddie Drummond of Detroit against Jacksonville on Nov. 14, 2004.

Frerotte, who repeatedly delivered clutch throws under heavy pressure and absorbed several hard hits, connected with Berrian for 36 yards to the New Orleans 27, then found him again for a 33-yard score to tie it at 27.

Vikings cornerback Antoine Winfield scored after recovering Gramatica's blocked kick in the first quarter and set up Minnesota's second TD with a forced fumble on a sack of Brees that he recovered at the New Orleans 5-yard line.

Minnesota cashed in when Chester Taylor threw a halfback pass to Visanthe Shiancoe, which gave Minnesota a 17-10 lead in the second quarter.

Longwell hit a 33-yard field goal late in the first half.

The Vikings defense proved too much to overcome for a Saints offense that already was hurting itself.

Brees was 26-of-46 for 330 yards but was intercepted twice, once on a tipped pass deep in Vikings territory and once on a desperation heave in the final seconds.

His lone touchdown pass went for 17 yards to Devery Henderson on the Saints' first series of the game.

Warner increasing thoughts of retirement

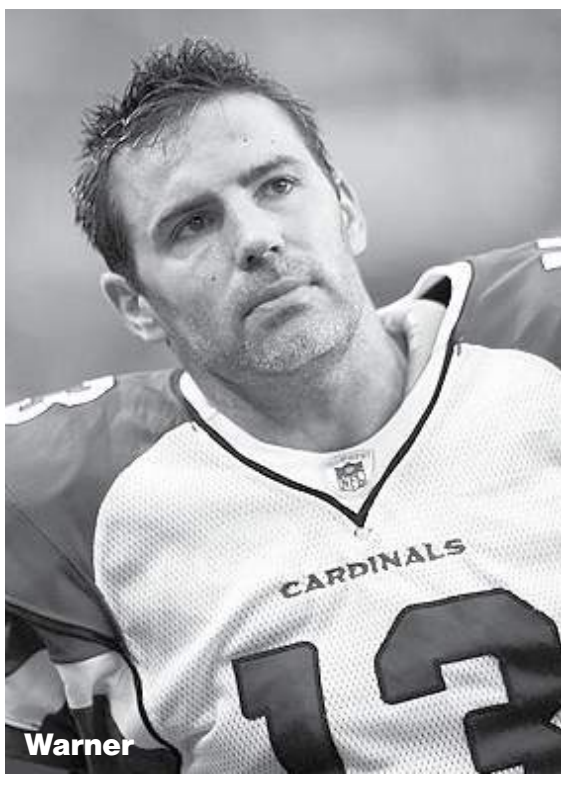
TEMPE, Ariz. (AP)—Arizona Cardinals quarterback Kurt Warner says that after this season he will take his closest look yet at retiring from the NFL.

The scary injury to teammate Anquan Boldin, combined with other factors, has led him to give more serious consideration to leaving the game.

"I'm definitely considering retirement more than I ever have before," the 37-year-old quarterback said Monday, "but that doesn't mean it's more than 50 percent or anything like that. I'm just going to consider it."

The comments came after Yahoo.com reported that Warner text messaged his wife Brenda shortly after Boldin's injury on Nov. 28 against the New York Jets, saying he'd decided it was time to retire. She said he meant immediately, but Warner said that wasn't the case.

"There's no question that I texted her and said that I was contemplating and thinking about it because she's wanted me to retire for a couple of years now," Warner said. ". . . It wasn't I was going to retire last week. It was more I'm just really trying to keep this thing in perspective moving forward."



Warner

Warner has acknowledged the fierce helmet-to-helmet hit on Boldin as the receiver went up for Warner's pass in the waning seconds of Arizona's 56-35 loss to the Jets was the worst he had seen in his 12 NFL seasons. After lying on the ground for many minutes, Boldin was taken off the field on a stretcher. He remains sidelined with a fractured sinus.

Warner has taken countless hard hits in his rags-to-riches pro career that includes MVP awards in the regular season and Super Bowl, as well as a Super Bowl championship. He doesn't want to be around to take one too many.

"It's a great game and it's done great things for me and my family," Warner said, "but the bottom line is when I'm done I want to be able to walk away and be everything I need to be for my family."

He listed other factors that could lead to his retirement, including the burden of having to live up to expectations and worry about being benched when he doesn't perform.

"When I'm out there between the lines, not one of those things cross my mind," Warner said. "It's just over the five or six days leading up to that. ... Week in and week out, that can weigh heavy on you."

He noted that over the last few years, he's had to be concerned about losing his job to a younger quarterback: Marc Bulger in St. Louis, Eli Manning with the New York Giants and now Matt Leinart in Arizona.

Cardinals coach Ken Whisenhunt chose Warner over Leinart as the starter this season. But Warner is in the final year of his contract and Whisenhunt has repeatedly said Leinart is the franchise's quarterback of the future.

Even if Warner takes the team to the playoffs, the Cardinals may decide it's time to turn things over to Leinart.

"If I'm going to play, I want to play here," Warner said. "If there was no contract done, then I think it would lend myself to even taking a bigger look at it (retirement) instead of moving everything and trying to re-establish myself."

Warner had an awful outing against the Jets, throwing three interceptions and fumbling the ball away three times. But he responded Sunday with a strong performance in Arizona's 41-17 home victory over the Buffalo Bills, completing 33 of 42 passes for 250 yards and two touchdowns with no interceptions or lost fumbles.

Afterward, Warner said, "My wife said `You're never going to retire now, are you?'

"Games like that make you want to play forever."

Unapologetic Plaxico Burress returns to Giants

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—An unapologetic Plaxico Burress rejoined the New York Giants on Monday, noting he didn't lose any sleep after the Super Bowl champions suspended him for a game. Burress missed a team meeting two weeks ago without bothering to telephone the Giants.

The receiver who caught the winning touchdown in the Super Bowl attributed his absence on Sept. 22 to a family emergency, which he described as having to take his son to school.

"It was just a situation I had to deal with that morning, and I made the right decision," Burress said during a conference call that lasted about 20 minutes. "I don't have any regrets about the decision I made at all."

Burress said family would still come first next time, but that he would make sure he made a telephone call to let the Giants know about the problem.

"My emotions were that they suspended me," said Burress, who sat out Sunday's 44-6 win over Seattle. "That was the decision they chose to do. I'll take it at that. I'm not going to lose any sleep over it. I got me some rest and was able to get away for a while and chill out and relax. Things like that happen. I'll keep moving forward and get back to doing what I do: catching footballs, scoring touchdowns and get back to work."

Along with the suspension, Burress was fined one week's pay, or roughly $117,500. The Giants originally docked him $235,000, but the player and the team reached a settlement last week that cut the fine in half.

Burress, who caught a career-high 12 touchdowns last season, never explained why he did not report to Giants Stadium after dropping his son off at school. He indicated that there was more involved without getting into explanations.

"There are some things that you guys don't know," Burress said. "So you can't say it wasn't an emergency on my part because you don't know everything that was going on."

The nine-year veteran refused to be more specific.

"Coach said I was suspended because I needed to be more responsible. I was being responsible, I just put my child first," he said.

Burress also refused to discuss problems with his wife. Police were called to his home twice this year in response to domestic problems.

"There is nothing to tell, he said.

Burress said he and his wife talked to the team on the night of Sept. 22, and he spoke with general manager Jerry Reese the next day. He was suspended the following day after a meeting with Reese and coach Tom Coughlin.

Burress said he did not argue with either Reese or Coughlin after being suspended, and that he respected their decision being for the good of the team.

"What was I supposed to do, cry?" said Burress, who admitted he let down his teammates by not being on the field Sunday. "They told me I was suspended. I didn't argue with them. I took it, walked out and left."

Mercado-led Rain or Shine sends message to opposition

MANILA, Philippines—As good as hoped—and more.

Solomon Mercado proved Rain or Shine management's trust in him was well-founded, leading the team to a 120-102 stunner over Air21 Sunday in the KFC PBA Philippine Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Fil-Am rookie, drafted fifth overall by Alaska but acquired by Rain or Shine in the Joe Devance deal, wound up with a game-high 29 points, fashioning the best rookie debut since Asi Taulava's 32 for Talk 'N Text in 1999.

With Eddie Laure, Jayr Reyes and Ryan Arana chipping in their ample share, the Elasto Painters took full control of the game right in the second quarter to lead by as much as 109-89 and easily carve the virtual breakthrough win of sorts.

Air21 was coming off a sterling conference and was expected by most to simply roll over the former Welcoat team that finished dead-last in its first two seasons with the league. Instead, the Express were the ones who showed the jitters and frustrations only newcomers are usually prone to and thus ceded only their second game in nine total meetings with their foes.

The win also marked the first time the Elasto Painters triumphed in an opening assignment, but head coach Caloy Garcia was quick to stifle their supporters' rising hopes, pointing out it was just one game.

"Sana hindi maging complacent ang mga bata because of this," said the man who is at the team's helm for only the second conference. "But definitely this is a very different team and they showed they are capable of playing with the big boys."

It also put the Elasto Painters on track for their immediate goal of avoiding a 10th place finish like in their first four conferences since entering the league in 2006.

"Again, this is just our first game and we're still the youngest team in the league. But ipinakita nilang they're really made for the PBA. Iba talaga ang puso ng mga bata," Garcia stated.

Typifying Air21's self-destruction were veterans Homer Se and Wynne Arboleda and third-year pro Arwind Santos, who were ejected one after another.

Ranidel de Ocampo paced Air21 with team-highs of 22 points, 13 rebounds and six assists. But the Express were simply headed for defeat in the absence of the other key cogs in their runner-up finish behind Barangay Ginebra in the last Fiesta Conference.

Doug Kramer added a career-high 16 points while JC Intal and Se added 10 each.

Laure, part of the Mercado-Devance deal that also involved Rain or Shine's 2010 and 2011 second round picks going to Alaska, had 20 points for his highest output the last six seasons while Arana and Reyes wound up with 17 points each.

Rain or Shine 120 – Mercado 29, Laure 20, Arana 17, Reyes 17, Wainwright 10, Tang 7, Norwood 6, Ibanez 5, Andaya 3, Dulay 2, Isip 2, Salangsang 2.

Air21 102 – De Ocampo 22, Kramer 16, Intal 15, Se 10, Santos 9, Quinahan 8, Cruz 7, David 5, Billones 4, Canaleta 3, Villanueva 2, Arboleda 1.

Quarterscores: 24-31; 61-53; 89-75; 120-102. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

CNMI

From Page 28

defense, and teamwork enabled us to win against PNG. It also worked against Fiji, but in the end we made some crucial errors that caused us the game," Aguon said.

It was the first time for the CNMI cagers to compete in a high-level tournament such as FIBA caging, but the Commonwealth's bets were not that intimidated by their more experienced and much taller foes.

"Our boys showed that we can play against the best of them. While we were outsized, we were not outclassed once we got the first game in and the butterflies out," Aguon said.

"On a scale from 1 to 10, I gave our boys an 11. I am so proud of them. As for the heart they showed in every game and their never-say-die attitude, we were the champs," Aguon said.

The CNMI Junior Nationals were composed of Jericho Cruz, Jomary Tumaquip, Jayvan Tarkong, Marvin Rabauliman, Antonio Borja, Bill Babauta, Joseph White, Jose Castro, Allen Moses, and James Camacho.

On a personal note, Aguon admitted he had been through a lot of tournaments, but the FIBA Oceania caging was one of the toughest.

"It was both exhilarating and tiring. It is very demanding and if you are not prepared for it, usually you will be overwhelmed. We were prepared to some extent, unfortunately basketball is a game of height and we lacked that," the CNMI coach said.

Aguon added he learned a lot from the tournament and these he could share to local coaches and players so when the CNMI competes in the same tournament next time, the result would be better.

"First is we must stress the importance of developing the basic basketball skills of our players at an early age. By the time these kids come to the national level they have these skills that will enable them to make the team," Aguon said.

"Second, we must also instill in them that you must work hard to improve your game. Conditioning is a key factor and if they are not use to hard work, they will usually quit. Third, let's hope that our players start getting taller," he added.

In the CNMI's three losses, they were out-rebounded by their foes, who had several players standing more than 6' tall.

SMITH

From Page 28

Commonwealth in next year's Oceania tournament.

Saipan will be hosting the 2009 Oceania Tournament in June and the tournament is open for players of all ages.

Aside from the CNMI teams, the 2009 FIBA caging will feature squads from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, New Caledonia, Tahiti, Guam, Palau, Papua New Guinea, and American Samoa.

Meanwhile, Smith assessed the youth caging held at the University of Guam Fieldhouse and said the absence of New Zealand in the youth tournament in Guam deprived the event from having two potential medal-winning teams. New Zealand won the men's division in 2006, beating Australia, and finished runner-up to the Aussies in the women's division. This year, Australia ruled both divisions.

"New Zealand did not compete this time because of a clash of dates. This deprived us of two potential medal-winning teams. In addition, Palau and the CNMI competed in their first OYT and I think they were a little surprised at the quality of their opposition. However this was a good wake-up call for what standards they must strive to achieve if they want to become international players. I would say on balance, the standard was lower than our 2006 event, but that was not true for all teams," Smith said.

The FIBA official also noted Tahiti's significant improvement. Tahiti placed second both in the men's and women's divisions this year.

"Tahiti had obviously done a lot of work with their junior squads since competing in New Zealand, two years ago. The players were more skillful and better prepared," he said.

Smith thanked Guam organizers for ensuring the success of the 2008 edition of the OYT and looks forward to another successful competition in New Caledonia in 2008.

"FIBA Oceania and the teams from the Pacific were very appreciative of the effort made by Guam basketball. New Caledonia had previously hosted this event for us in 1998 so we have some idea of what to expect," Smith said.

"Because New Caledonia will be hosting the Pacific Games in 2011, I am sure they will want to have a successful youth tournament as a way of preparing their facilities and staff for the SPG," he added.

KONTENDERS

From Page 28

tenders was the Saints' seventh. They dropped to a 2-5 record and will face the Rollers I in their last match on Oct. 16.

The Saints-Kontenders tiff ended in a deadlock at halftime, 29-all.

Zack Tudela kept the Suns afloat in the first half, exploding for 15 points, including the team's last 10 markers in that period.

Tudela continued to hit his mark in the second half, but he was no match against the combined efforts of Pua, Dillay, and Kaipat.

Tudela finished with a game-high 29 points. Luizi Reyes chipped in 12.

Besides Tudela and Reyes, the Saints drew contributions from only three other players.

The Kontenders had 10 players making it into the scoreboard.

The Rotary league is hoping to wrap up the regular season next week to start the single-elimination playoffs later this month.

The playoffs cast is already complete with only eight teams gaining slots to the next round. Both the Suns and Kontenders are assured of slots in the playoffs. Joining them in the next round are the CNMI Junior Nationals, Sixers, Sonics, Rollers I, Suns, and the G-Stars.

Only the pennant champion has yet to be decided and it's a toss up between the Junior Nationals and the Sixers, who are both unbeaten in the regular season.

The Sixers and the defending champion Junior Nationals will collide for the pennant on Oct. 15.

Kontenders 63 – E. Dillay 12, Pua 11, Kaipat 10, Ogumoro 8, Ngirachongor 6, Pomee 5, D. Dilay 4, Charley 3, Dowei 2, Laniyo 2.

Saints 60 – Tudela 29, Reyes 12, Iglecias 9, Masga 5, Tenorio 3.

Scoring by halves: 29-all, 63-60.

WPS

From Page 28

On the other hand, the GCA Eagles streaked to their ninth win in as many games by scoring yet another easy 25-13, 25-18 win over Saipan International-Green.

The Terns and the Eagles will meet for the second time this season tomorrow, Oct. 9, at the WPS hard court.

This could be a preview of the championship game, barring any major disaster for the two teams going into the playoff round. There are five more playing dates left in the eliminations.

The Terns suffered their lone defeat to the Eagles in their first meeting last Sept. 16.

"We will win all our next games," that's all WPS coach Mark McDonald had to say at this point.

For MCS coach Tony Rogolifoi, the Knights still have a chance to recover.

He said the team needs to focus on their goal and that is to be part of the Top 4 after the elimination round.

"My players need more drills and be serious in practice. They lack the fundamentals and teamwork. They are still trying to blend together as a team. Well, they have just started playing together," he said.

Still, he commended his players' current standing. The Knights carry a 4-5 win-loss card.

WPS drew big support from Reina Klaver, Christian Miller Joon Ko, Phalai Frink, and Ilia Corella.

The Terns established a commanding 21-10 lead in the opening set.

Although the Knights staged a comeback via a 5-1 run and moved to within a 15-22 score, the Terns quickly got back to their game.

In the second set, the lanky Miller scored five service winners and a spike by Joon Ko allowed the Terns to race to a 6-0 lead.

That lead ballooned to 11-3 with Joon's stronger serves and good cover and saves by Klaver.

As McDonald shuffled his players, putting Joon's brother Jay and a couple of second stringers, the Terns nearly blew up a 19-12 advantage.

MCS big man Garry Santos and Kimberly Sablan went on to score on service winners as the Knights rallied with a 8-1 run to tie the score at 20-all and put the pressure on the Terns.

This caused McDonald to call a timeout and bring back Joon to the game to break the Knights' momentum.

It clicked for the Terns, with Joon issuing two crucial returns, a service winner from Corella, a spike from Klaver and a service winner from Joon for the win.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

MCS Knights mentor Tony Rogolifoi calls a timeout in the first set as his team lagged behind 10-18 in their game against the host WPS Terns yesterday in the 2008 COPSSA volleyball league.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	4	1	0	.800	126	104
New England	3	1	0	.750	79	79
N.Y. Jets	2	2	0	.500	115	116
Miami	2	2	0	.500	79	74
South						
Tennessee	5	0	0	1.000	115	56
Indianapolis	2	2	0	.500	83	94
Jacksonville	2	3	0	.400	100	111
Houston	0	4	0	.000	83	130
North						
Pittsburgh	4	1	0	.800	103	79
Baltimore	2	2	0	.500	75	56
Cleveland	1	3	0	.250	46	78
Cincinnati	0	5	0	.000	74	118
West						
Denver	4	1	0	.800	149	130
San Diego	2	3	0	.400	148	129
Oakland	1	3	0	.250	78	101
Kansas City	1	4	0	.200	65	131

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East						
N.Y. Giants	4	0	0	1.000	127	49
Washington	4	1	0	.800	109	98
Dallas	4	1	0	.800	151	111
Philadelphia	2	3	0	.400	127	97
South						
Carolina	4	1	0	.800	114	70
Tampa Bay	3	2	0	.600	114	94
Atlanta	3	2	0	.600	117	107
New Orleans	2	3	0	.400	138	130
North						
Chicago	3	2	0	.600	128	87
Green Bay	2	3	0	.400	133	128
Minnesota	2	3	0	.400	101	109
Detroit	0	4	0	.000	66	147
West						
Arizona	3	2	0	.600	147	120
San Francisco	2	3	0	.400	115	127
Seattle	1	3	0	.250	83	124
St. Louis	0	4	0	.000	43	147

Yesterday's Game

Minnesota 30, New Orleans 27

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

12 teams to vie for Rocball championship

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Twelve teams, led by defending champion Evenflow, will be battling for the championship in the 2008-2009 World Organized Rocball Community League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The league is expected to open later this month, but has started its preseason games last Saturday during the Violence Free Safe Haven Program at the MHS gym.

Rocball creator James Feger said the preseason matches aim to get old players back to their rhythm and to introduce new players to the rules of the sport.

Rocball is called Saipan's indigenous sport and is unique as it combines the rules of volleyball and soccer. It is played in a slightly modified standard volleyball court with an overhead net bisecting team courts and a 6- x 12-foot soccer type goal located 10 feet behind each court. The sport uses a scoring system where a team could win a game by total amount of points scored using a set system of play.

MARK RABAGO
The 2008-2009 World Organized Rocball Community League is expected to open later this month at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Last season, Evenflow was down in the best-of-five series, but went on to steal the championship from No-Use. Evenflow trailed in the series, 0-2, but swept the last three games to claim the 2007-2008 title.

Evenflow's Typhoon Saito was adjudged most valuable player of the league.

Last season's Rocball league drew 18 teams and 140 players. Joining Evenflow and No-Use in last year's league were the Naturals, No-Mercy, Jammers, Malat, NG Force, Chuukese Warriors, Islanders, Sonics, 670, By Luck, Yamat, Team Seven, Dota All-Stars, Try-Out, and Monota.

No-Use swept No-Mercy in the best-of-three semis series to gain the first finals ticket, while Evenflow notched the last finals slot after outlasting Try-Out, 2-1.

Besides Eveflow, also making a comeback this year are the Islanders, Naturals, and No-Mercy. Completing the list are Ghasias Brothers, Uraiwak, Okies, Sail Rebels, Section A, FSM Boys, Prims, and Fanians.

Feger said teams will play in preseason games for two weeks from Monday to Thursday and every Saturday. Weekday matches will run from 5pm to 8:30pm, while Saturday games will be played from 4pm to 8pm.

For more information on the league, contact Feger at 288-8722.

7 teams submit roster for PILCOWA/SMB cage league

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Seven teams have already submitted their final rosters for the first basketball tournament organized by the Pilipino Contract Workers Association.

Sponsored by Pacific Trading Co., the league will be officially known as the PILCOWA/San Miguel Beer Basketball League.

The event will kick-off this Sunday, Oct. 12, at the CIC Centre basketball court at the back of the building of the same name along Beach Road in Garapan.

The teams that have so far submitted their lineups are Olivos, PTI, MIGS, AON Insurance, Century Insurance, C&R Distributors (NRG), and Pacific Trading.

PILCOWA sports coordinator Pando Muleta said two more teams have signified their intention to join the league.

Meanwhile, all teams and their players, in complete uniform with their muses in toe, are advised to take part in the parade during the colorful opening ceremony.

Muleta is reminding the participating teams that there would be awards for best muse and best in uniform during the ceremony.

The assembly time for the parade will be at 3:30pm near the Garapan Fishing Base, across the Horigichi Building

Each team is composed of 14 players with an entry fee of $500 per team. The fee could be paid in full or with a 50-percent down payment but a team must make sure to pay the 50 percent balance after its first two games or before playing its third game.

Earlier, organizers have initially agreed for awards and other side events relating to the tournament such as championship trophy, individual medals, mythical five selection, MVP, best in rebound, assist, steal, and 3-pointers.

There is also a plan to hold an all-star game before the playoffs.

Muleta envisions an NBA or PBA style of league, adding that the side events would encourage more participation from the Filipino community on Saipan and join hopefully some of them would be encouraged to join PILCOWA. The group is headed by its president Ronnie Doca.

SIS 5K Fun Run set for Oct. 18

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Saipan International School is ready to hold its annual 5K Fun Run in the morning of Oct. 18, according to event coordinator Betty Johnson.

The run will start and finish at Banzai Cliff Memorial Park in Marpi. The turning point will be at Cow Town Raceway Park.

For first-timers on Saipan, Johnson said that Cow Town is the road going to the landfill but runners will not reach the site.

Registration will begin at 6am, an hour before the 7am send-off time.

Proceeds from the event will benefit SIS. Johnson said it will be for the payment of the fund that was used to construct the new school building, which was completed last year.

Around 135 runners joined the event in 2007.

Runners of all ages can join the fun run and Johnson said prizes for age group categories would be awarded if enough funds would be available.

In the meantime, the prizes for the overall Top 3 finishers are guaranteed.

Each participant will pay an entry fee of $10.

The first 120 registrants will receive an event T-shirt.

Johnson said all participants are entitled for an entry ticket that would be raffled for a chance to win exciting prizes.

Johnson said they are still getting confirmation from a number of interested sponsors.

However, she said that in the past, all kids who completed the five-kilometer course were given Big Dipper gift certificates. She also said that DFS has also made a committment to donate gift certificates.

Interested participants (runners, sponsors, and volunteers) should contact SIS at 288-9660 for more information.

Eli Torgeson won the seventh edition of the annual fundraising event last year with a record time of 16 minutes and 40 seconds.

Torgeson's five-year-old son Carston was also first in the 1-km race with a time of 21:28.

The father-and-son tandem are unavailable for confirmation if they will be joining and defend their crown this year.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Eli Torgeson, seen here in a file photo, won the seventh edition of the annual fundraising event last year with a record time of 16 minutes and 40 seconds.

D'Companeros draw level with Stallions

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Oleai D'Companeros picked-up 12 more points after last Thursday's rounds to draw level with the Oleia Black Stallions, who managed nine points, in the ongoing Saipan Electronic Darts Association.

The Black Stallions and D'Compnaeros are now tied with 71-48 win-loss records on top of the Masters Division.

Another team from Oleai, the Heavy Bombers, remained third with a 54-65 mark and the VFW Chubby Wockees are fourth with a 42-77.

The leaders in the other six divisions maintained their hold with Utopia 4 Corners improving its record to 81-38 in A-Division.

D'Pirates d'Destroyers stayed in second with 72-47, while VFW Major Leaks is third with 65-54. The others teams in the division are Sierra's Shakem Up (62-57), Vargas Snipers (47-72), and Primo's Seki D'Umber (30-89).

Although Oleai No Fear kept its lead (63-42) in the Tuesday-B Division, there was a change in the standings as Krystal 80 Proofers surged into second place with a 62-43 standing.

The 80 Proofers could easily erase that one-point No Fear lead in the next round but the latter must stay focus to prevent a major disaster.

Primo's Pay Day Time was relegated to third but also capable of making a big comeback with its 61-44.

The other teams, with their current standings in parenthesis, are as follows: Primo's Naughty Boys (59-46); Jonny's Insane Dart Posse (56-49); Jonny's Fujin (48-57); D'Pirates B Destroyers (45-60); and Jonny's Samurai (26-79).

Utopia Hot Shots tightened its grip of the Thursday-B division with its 72-33 card, while Len's Lights Out climbed to second with its 52-48 mark while relegating Primo's Warriors to third (48-42).

There were also changes in the standings for the rest of the field with Coral Reef B- Barracuda moving up to fourth (45-45), D'Piarates Dart Knights to fifth (43-62), and the Flair Sakude Umbre to sixth (42-48).

Oleai shooters are in seventh with 41-49, while Oleai Get Er Done slipped from fourth to eighth (41-49). Naked Fish Naked Boyz remained in the bottom (36-54).

In the C Division, Naked Fish Unagas paces the field with its 64-41 win-loss mark, while Jonny's Asian Dart Heads climbed to second (52-38). VFW Clubmates skidded to third with its record of 48-57. The other teams are Coral Reef Barracuda (47-43), Naked Fish Hafa Mas (47-43), Remington Dart Vador (43-47), Gaia Bonzai (41-49), Primo's No Expectations (40-50), and Coral Reef Shark Attack (38-52).

In the Ladies Division, there was no shake up in the team standings as Naked Fish's Naked Shooters raked in 11 more points last Thursday to maintain its runaway lead with a 64-26 win-loss record.

The other ladies teams were Oleai B-52's (43-32), Jonny's.com (37-53), Coral Reef Mermaids (36-54), and Coral Reef Sting Rays (30-45).

12 teams to vie for Rocball Championship

Twelve teams, led by defending champion Evenflow, will be battling for the championship in the 2008-2009 World Organized Rocball Community League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Red Sox beat Angels, move on to ALCS and Rays

The Boston Red Sox brushed aside the 100-win Angels in four games, dismissing their best-in-baseball regular season as last month's news.

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CNMI cagers set benchmark in Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Nationals performed beyond what was expected of them during the 7th FIBA Oceania Junior Tournament at the University of Guam Fieldhouse in Mangilao.

"I believe we have set a benchmark for the next team to achieve. We were just two games away from the medal rounds," said coach Rufino Aguon.

The CNMI cagers played for the fifth to sixth place game and lost to Fiji (63-65) in a match that was decided in the last minute. Guam and New Caledonia collided in the third place battle with the host winning, while Australia ruled the tournament as expected handily beating Tahiti in the finals.

Overall, the CNMI cagers won two games in the tournament. They downed Papua New Guinea in pool play, 93-84, and defeated Palau in the playoffs, 100-90.

Aguon's wards lost to Guam, New Caledonia, and Tahiti, but gave their foes a tough time in the first half of their games before falling short in the second half.

"We did not expect to win but we knew that Palau would be our best shot since we have played against them before and knew how they played. Against PNG, we concentrated on our game and were not awed by their taller players. Our speed,

See CNMI on Page 26

WWW.FIBAOCEANIA.COM

The CNMI's Jayvan Tarkong goes up for a fade-away jumper during their quarterfinals game against Tahiti in the 7th FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament at the University of Guam Fieldhouse last week.

Smith hopes to see Jr. Nationals play in 2009 Oceania caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

FIBA Oceania Secretary General Steve Smith has his hats off to the CNMI Men's and Women's Junior National Teams for playing with a lot of pride and commitment in the 7th FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament in Guam last week despite their physical limitation.

Smith

"Both teams played with a lot of pride and commitment. Their physical size was a factor which limited their ability to compete with the taller Australian, Tahitian, and Fijian teams," Smith said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

The CNMI cagers won two games, beating Palau and Papua New Guinea, while the Commonwealth's cagebelles prevailed once, beating Palau.

"This was their first time to participate in an Oceania tournament. I am sure they did not have a good idea what to expect, but their understanding of basketball would have been improved by their participation in the games and the clinics arranged before the competition," he said.

The FIBA Oceania official added he hopes the basketball community in the CNMI had strengthened their love and dedication for the sport by participating in the Oceania caging, and that some players from the Junior Nationals will also play for the

See SMITH on Page 26

Kontenders regain form, nip Saints

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Kontenders' Jester Kaipat pulls up for a shot against the Sixers during their game in the Rotary caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last month. The Kontenders dueled the Saints Monday night and ended their four-game losing skid after recording a 63-60 win.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Kontenders ended their slide, pulling off a 63-60 victory against the Chalan Kanoa Saints in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Kontenders won their first two games in the 18-and-under caging, but lost the next four before regaining their form against the Suns.

Soane Pua, Eugene Dillay, and Jester Kaipat drilled crucial baskets in the second half to lift the Kontenders to a three-point win.

Dillay was scoreless in the first half, but fired all his 12 points in the second to end the Kontenders' losing streak. At one point midway in the second half, Dillay scored eight straight markers.

Pua picked up where Dillay left off in the closing minutes of the second half, nailing eight straight markers, including a rare four-point play.

Pua had eight of the Kontenders' last 12 points in the second half.

Kaipat made the last four points on back-to-back baskets to preserve the Kontenders victory.

The game against the Kon-

See KONTENDERS on Page 26

WPS Terns beat MCS Knights in COPSSA

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

WPS Terns coach Mark McDonald gives instructions to his players during a crucial second set timeout in the team's 25-16, 25-21 victory over MCS Knights yesterday in the 2008 COPSSA volleyball league.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Whispering Palms continued with its impressive showing even as Grace Christian played solid games and remained undefeated in the ongoing 2008 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League.

The two teams outsmarted their respective rivals yesterday and a championship duel is brewing in the junior varsity division as the double round-robin elimination stage near its end.

The WPS Terns fended off spirited rallies by the Mount Carmel Knights at home and won in straight sets, 25-16, 25-21, for their seventh win in eight outings.

See WPS on Page 26